

Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

Becket, Blandford, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Otis, Plainfield, Russell, Sandisfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Worthington

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

June 17, 2021 | Vol. 43, No. 8 | 75¢

www.countryjournal.turley.com

CHESTER

Warrant table attempt sparks heated debate

By Peter Spotts

Social media tension boiled over into an explosive start to Annual Town Meeting on Monday, June 14, as resident Gail Tingley clashed with Moderator Melvyn Hook in her attempt to table the town meeting warrant.

Tingley’s motion was spurred by her concerns involving the fiscal 2020 budget and Transfer Station revolving account. She demanded answers to how the town spent approximately \$3.7 million in fiscal 2020 while the town operating budget was approved at ATM for

about \$3.1 million.

“2020 was so screwed up. I have five documents with different totals for what 2020 cost,” Tingley said. “Which one is it? We should have a right to know.”

Tingley’s motion was to table the warrant and budget until it could be presented to

the town voters with more clarity and correct information.

Selectman John Baldasaro and Finance Committee member Andy Myers explained to Tingley about town revenue sources

BUDGET, page 11

END OF AN ERA



The Westhampton Safety Complex is demolished on Monday, June 14. It’s former home will be the foundation for the new public safety complex, which voters approved earlier this year at both a special town meeting and the ballot box, after years of work to try and pass the project by town officials.

Submitted photos by Barbara Pelissier

CHESTERFIELD

School community bonds through wish flags



New Hingham Elementary School teachers Leonardo Quiles, Jennifer Murphy, and Lauren Paret stand in front of one of four lines of flags hung outside the school on Friday, June 11. Every student and staff member of the school made a wish flag as part of a global movement “Wishes From...” More photos page 8.

Photos by Peter Spotts

By Peter Spotts

As the end of a unique school year draws closer, the New Hingham Elementary School community has come together for a unique, world-wide initiative to reflect on the past year and think about moving forward out of the pandemic with wish flags.

All students and staff from the school, including remote students, made flags and all the creations were displayed on Thursday, June 10, and Friday, June 11, filling four clothes lines outside the main entrance to the

school.

“This is a beautiful, simple way for a community to commemorate this year,” Kindergarten Teacher Jennifer Murphy said. “I’m tearing up seeing them [the flags] in the wind. Every flag is unique, just like every single person in this community.”

Murphy collaborated with Adjustment Counselor Lauren Paret and Art Teacher Leonardo Quiles to make the project happen. Paret worked

FLAGS, page 10

GOSHEN

Fire, Police Dept. honored at ATM

By Shelby Macri

The Annual Town Meeting for Goshen honored those working for the town, as well as approving needed articles, budgets, and spending limits for the town and its government.

The meeting began with a special appearance from State Rep. Natalie Blais, D-Sunderland, who announced and presented four citations for dedicated members of the Police and Fire Departments.

HONORED, page 12

WORTHINGTON

Speed concerns rise on roads

By Peter Spotts

Speed on town roads under construction are a growing concern for town officials and residents.

The town posted on the town website on Sunday, June 13, the speed for the Old North Road Route 143 construction work has been reduced to 20 miles per hour. The town is having issues with the amount of dust being kicked up by cars going too fast through the construction zone.

SPEED, page 7

RUSSELL

ATM produces active discussions

By Shelby Macri

Russell’s Annual Town Meeting wrapped up in a brisk 90 minutes with only one defeated article and all others unanimously passed.

Although the articles passed unanimously, there was quite a bit of discussion throughout the warrant; some wanted to amend articles and others asking clarifying questions before moving on. There were also a few instances of typographical errors as the printed warrant listed article 14 twice and then ended with article 15. There was a motion made to have the warrant read the second article 14 as article 15 and change the last article accordingly.

ATM, page 12

PAGE 3



Becket.....	3
Blandford.....	6, 7
Business Directory.....	3
Chester.....	11
Chesterfield.....	10

Classifieds.....	15
Cummington.....	10
Goshen.....	12
Huntington.....	2
Middlefield.....	3

Montgomery.....	16
Obituaries.....	14
Opinion.....	4, 5
Public Notices.....	14
Puzzle Page.....	13

Russell.....	12
Westhampton.....	10
Williamsburg.....	3
Worthington.....	7



HUNTINGTON

Board discusses PVPC project updates, appointments

By Shelby Macri

HUNTINGTON — The Huntington Selectboard addressed several topics on Wednesday, June 9.

For the Board of Health, George Peterson had been elected, effective July 1, for the seat vacated by Melissa Nazzaro, but Administrative Assistant Jennifer Peloquin said the Selectboard also appointed Peterson through June 30 to fill a current vacancy by Melissa Reid, who resigned on June 8.

The discussion shifted to Pioneer Valley Planning Commission projects and details, as well as a Community Development Block Grant extension project, the latter of which is a separate project that’s unrelated to the PVPC Downtown study. The CDBG project to extend the Kennedy Drive Roadway

Improvement Project has been extended thru Sept. 30 of this year.

“The project is for drainage and paving,” Peloquin said. “The majority of the work has been completed, but there are still items on a punch list that need to be completed.”

She added the extension is to make sure that everything is done in a satisfactory way, and the necessary paperwork can be completed.

Other projects discussed included the PVPC Downtown study request and the regional energy Planning assistance.

“The downtown study request is to seek assistance from Pioneer Valley Planning Commission on strategies to improve parking, one way sign issues, tractor trailer trucks attempting to turn around and getting stuck or causing damage, and the condition of the concrete

and railings at the end of Main Street and building facades,” Peloquin said.

The memorandum of understanding with PVPC for Regional Energy Planning Assistance is for the PVPC to provide assistance with completing Green Communities grant applications and annual reports. The Selectboard has chosen to send a letter they signed, to request for PVPC’s assistance for ideas. The town currently doesn’t know what PVPC’s solution will be regarding parking, one way signage, and trucks getting stuck in town as reported by residents. Although they just started the process of asking the PVPC for help the Selectboard is looking forward for their response on this matter.

One of the last topics discussed was the Town Administrator’s report, which included the Hilltown Community Health Center possibly scaling back their clinics

due to less of a demand, Stanton Hall will still be available for the group to use if they need it.

The Selectboard voted to extend remote participation for all governmental public bodies in the municipality to indefinitely follow the state guidelines.

Peloquin reported a few more items to the Selectboard including that State Representative Natalie Blais requested the Selectboard to submit three top budget priorities to her.

Lastly, a resident had inquired about volunteers for painting a bridge that had recently been graffitied, though more information is needed for such a project.

The next Selectboard meeting will be on Wednesday, June 23, at 5:30 p.m. For more information on the meeting agenda and login information to join the meeting, visit huntingtonma.us/index.html.



Superior
Tree
and
Landscape

superiorlandscapes1455@gmail.com • 413-464-6368

BROWNS
PROVIN MT.
FARM

443 North West St. • Feeding Hills, MA

PICK YOUR OWN STRAWBERRIES

Tues thru Sun 8am-3pm
(subject to weather & crop permitting)

CLOSED MONDAYS

413.786.0495

brownsprovinmtfarm.com & 

CASH ONLY • Credit/Debit Cards Not Accepted

Social Distancing Practices are in Effect in the Field and
Masks are Required When at the Stand

3 EASY
WAYS TO
REACH
US

PHONE
413.283.8393
Fax: 413.283.7017
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL
Advertising Sales
John Baskin
jbaskin@turley.com

Editor
Peter Spotts
countryjournal@turley.com

Subscriptions
cgriswold@turley.com

\$31 per year pre-paid
(\$36 out of state)
Newsstand: \$.75 per copy

WEB
www.countryjournal.turley.com
 @Country Journal

The Country Journal is published by
Turley Publications, Inc. • www.turley.com

NORWICH HILL

The First Congregational Church of
Huntington reminds everyone even though
our physical doors are closed until further
notice, we are most definitely open for
worship, praise, ministry, and fellowship.
We are an Open and Affirming Church
inviting, welcoming, and affirming every-
one — seekers, believers, and wonderers
alike — on their journey of faith, to join in
10 a.m. Zoom Sunday worship.
Our reading this week from Mark
4:35-41, invites us to climb into the
boat with the disciples to meet a storm
head on, as we wonder what this story
has to say to us about the storms in our
lives, both external and internal, and
the liberating good news that gets us to
the other side.

The pastor is always available to
speak with you. If you do not receive our
emails and would like to connect with
our Zoom worship service and/or fellow-
ship time, please contact Pastor Carol
at firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com
to receive the information you will need
to participate or send us a message on
Facebook.
Please use the phone numbers
and email address provided to stay in
touch or to contact the pastor. You are
also invited to find us on Facebook at
“Norwich Hill” for updates, information,
and spiritual encouragement. For more
information, please contact 413-667-
3935 or 860-798-7771 or firstchurchof-huntington@gmail.com.

Submissions are always welcome.
Send us your engagement, wedding, baby,
anniversary and graduation news and photos.
Country Journal
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
email: countryjournal@turley.com

BUSINESS DIRECTORY



George
PROPANE INC.

PROPANE GAS
PLUMBING • HEATING

(413) 268-8360
TOLL FREE 1-800-464-2053

Family Owned & Operated

3 Berkshire Trail West (Route 9), P.O. Box 102, Goshen, MA 01032
www.georgepropane.com




WHITING
ENERGY FUELS

Heating Oil & Diesel

whitingenergy.com

300A KING ST., NORTHAMPTON
584-3500

11 CLEVELAND RD., DALTON
1-800-722-0014



DOWN TO EARTH
EXCAVATING INC

Highly Regarded Professionals: Complete Site Work,
Septic Development and Repairs. Fully insured.

413 + 667 + 5269

Paul & Randy LaPointe, Owners Huntington, Mass.




Dale's Structural
& Carpentry

Home Improvement • Additions • Restorations • Remodeling

Timber Frame Homes Kitchen & Baths
Residential Drywall • Paint • Trim Work
Seasonal Homes & Camps Windows • Doors
Garage Repairs Decks & Stairs
Carriage & Colonial Barns Interior & Exterior Finishes

Structural Repairs - Wood - Masonry
Sagging Floors • Beams • Sill Timbers • Columns • Termites Damage
Foundation Repairs • Piers & Footings • Chimney Rebuilds


413-667-3149



AQUA PUMPS
WATER SYSTEMS

Water Pumps • Sewer Pumps
Water Conditioners

46 Pitcher Street Donald Washburn
Montgomery, MA 01085 862-3301



Kirke R. Henshaw, Inc.

Water Well Drilling, Water Pump Sales & Service

Water Testing System Evaluations
Water System Repairs Hydrofracture to Increase Flow

800-232-4725 • Fax 413-296-4565
Charles R. Henshaw
130 Cummington Rd., W. Chesterfield, MA • 413-296-4725



Hilltown
Cleaning Services

Established in 1982 • House Cleaning Plus

Carpet & Upholstery Steam Cleaned
Wood Floors, Waxed & Buffed
No Wax Floors, Stripped & Refinished
Hauling Trash • Appliance Removal • Pressure Washing
Gutters Cleaned Out • Cleaning Out Cellars & Attics

P.O. Box 244 Phone: (413) 238-5966
Worthington, MA 01098 Fax: (413) 238-0459

Carol Labonte
Paul Labonte



Jeff's
Oil Burner Service

Tune Ups
Installations
Oil Tanks

Huntington, Massachusetts

Office 413.667.0245
Cell 413.530.7037
jeffoilburnerservice@hotmail.com



GATEWAY FARM & PET

FEED • PET SUPPLIES • CLOTHING • COAL
WOOD PELLETS • WILD & CAGED BIRDSEED
POOL SUPPLIES • MOTOR OILS • FENCING
LAWN & GARDEN SUPPLIES • FERTILIZER

59 RUSSELL ROAD, HUNTINGTON, MA 01050
1-413-667-2279 M-F 8am-5pm
Sat. 8am-4pm
TARA GRENIER • PAUL GRENIER



Paul's
Plumbing & Heating

238-0303

PAUL GRAHAM
Mass. License 23299





ARCHITECT
JEFFREY SCOTT PENN

77 Worthington Road, Huntington, MA 01050
Tel. 413w-667-5230
fax. 413-667-3082
Email: jpsed@verizon.net

new construction, renovation,
historic preservation



Contact
John Baskin
to advertise at
413-695-4901
or email:
jbaskin@turley.com

BECKET

Jacob’s Pillow announces 2021 Dance Award

BECKET — Jacob’s Pillow announced Dormeshia as the recipient of the 2021 Jacob’s Pillow Dance Award.

The Award, presented each year to an artist of exceptional vision and achievement, carries a cash prize of \$25,000 which the artist can use in any way they wish. Dormeshia is a dynamic tap dancer, choreographer, and instructor who has been lauded as the best of her generation, both by her peers and esteemed dance critics.

Her performances have appeared on the Broadway stage, in films, and in choreography for artists including Savion Glover and Gregory Hines. Do

“Dormeshia is quite simply one of the greatest tap dancers of our time,” said Jacob’s Pillow Artistic & Executive Director Pamela Tatge. “She began by dancing with the greats when she was quite young and emerged with dazzling skill and artistry that is all her own. Dormeshia has made singular contributions to the tap world as performer, choreographer, collaborator, educator, and mentor. She is a radiant human being whose elegance, flair and generosity of spirit draws us to new heights of what’s possible in the tap form. It is an honor to present her with the Jacob’s Pillow Dance Award.”

“Thank you, Pam, and everyone at the Pillow for selecting me to be the recipient of the Jacob’s Pillow Dance Award,” Dormeshia said. “You’ve been watching and supporting my career for 28 years, so I just want to say thank you for creating opportunities for me and other Tap dancers to continue to learn and grow, as artists and people. Thank you for hearing and seeing me when I didn’t think you were paying me any attention.”



Jacob’s Pillow 2021 Dance Award recipient Dormeshia performs at Jacob’s Pillow with Jason Samuels Smith and Derick K. Grant in “And Still You Must Swing” at Jacob’s Pillow in 2016.

Submitted Photo by Christopher Duggan

Dormeshia joins a list of Jacob’s Pillow Dance Award honorees that include Ronald K. Brown, Annie-B Parson and Paul Lazar, Bill T. Jones, Merce Cunningham, Kyle Abraham, Michelle Dorrance, Camille A. Brown, Liz Lerman, and Faye Driscoll, among others.

“To me, she’s the greatest tap dancer/hoofer alive right now,” Jason Samuels Smith told Dance Magazine. “She’s on top in terms of her all-around

versatility and her wealth of knowledge and experience with the masters of tap.”

Dormeshia originally hails from Inglewood, California, and has been tap dancing since she was three, learning from her teachers and mentors Paul and Arlene Kennedy. By age eight, she’d performed in Rome, Italy, in the Tip Tap Festival, and at age 12, she made her Broadway debut in the musical “Black and Blue” alongside Savion Glover, Lon Chaney, Ralph Brown, and

Jimmy Slyde. She’s also performed in the Broadway show and international tour of the Tony Award-winning musical “Bring in Da’ Noise, Bring in Da’ Funk.”

Over the course of her career, Dormeshia has achieved international recognition and has won two Bessie Awards as a performer and choreographer. Dormeshia has also received a Princess Grace Dance Fellowship and is a Statue Award winner. As an instructor, Dormeshia has taught in several tap festivals, in dance schools and other venues across the globe. Dormeshia has also collaborated with Jason Samuels Smith and Derick K. Grant for annual productions of “Tap Family Reunion” celebrating National Tap Dance Day, which coincides with Bill “Bojangles” Robinson’s birthday on May 25.

The Jacob’s Pillow Dance Award was created in 2007 by an anonymous donor whose commitment to an ongoing annual gift to Jacob’s Pillow of \$50,000 is generous and far-reaching. The Award, presented each year to an artist of exceptional vision and achievement, carries a cash prize of \$25,000 which the artist can use in any way they wish.

The remaining \$25,000 supports the Pillow’s commitment to the research and development of new work in the recently launched Pillow Lab. Year-round residencies at the Pillow Lab offer free housing, unlimited use of studio space, and access to the Pillow’s rare and extensive Archives and resources, in the beautiful retreat-like atmosphere in Western Massachusetts. In commemoration, the honoree also receives a custom-designed glass award sculpture by Berkshire-based artist Tom Patti, whose work is in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum and other major arts institutions around the world.

Athenaeum starts summer events Saturday, June 19

BECKET — The Becket Athenaeum has a variety of events scheduled for the summer starting with the Summer Kickoff Community Day on Saturday, June 19, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Community Day includes the Athenaeum Book Sale, take home activities for the summer solstice and Juneteenth, and story times at 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 2 p.m. The Becket Arts Center will also have crafts available for children after each story time. The Mullen House and Historical Commission will be open that day for visitors, with families able to enjoy and add to nature Fairy Garden on the premises. The Becket Arts Center has both

its art exhibit open from noon to 4 p.m. and outdoor music on the lawn from 5 to 7 p.m.

On Thursday, June 24, a NASA Ambassador Presentation on the Curiosity and Perseverance’s Mars rovers will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The presentation will include the Perseverance helicopter, Ingenuity; the current human diversity and continued need for more diversity in the space program; and the Artemis mission to the Moon with its explicit goal of diversity. Pre-registration is required.

Community Drumming with Otha Day will be held on Saturday, June 26, at 1 p.m. Pre-registration is appreciated.

Cookbook Club will meet on

Wednesday, June 30, at 6 p.m. Prepare a dish from “In Pursuit of Flavor” by Edna Lewis to share at the outdoor meeting, under tents. Message info@BWLibrary.org to request a copy of the cookbook and notify the club of the recipe selected.

Book Club returns on Tuesday, July 6, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. for “The Night Swim” by Megan Goldin. Message info@BWLibrary.org to for details regarding the Zoom meeting to an off-site outdoor meeting.

Storytelling by Motoko will be held on Saturday, July 10, from 1 to 2 p.m. It will be held outdoors under tents at 12 Brooker Hill Road behind the Mullen House and across the street from the

library. Seating will be on grass and participants should bring their own blanket.

The outdoor book sale will also be held on July 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Donations are accepted.

Garden of the Goddess Owner Pat Perkins will host a Garden Composting Workshop on Sunday, July 11, at 10 a.m. For more information, contact info@BWLibrary.org.

Eshu Bumpus will host storytelling on Saturday, July 31, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. It will be held outdoors under tents at 12 Brooker Road. Pre-registration is accepted.

For more information on upcoming events or to pre-register, visit becketathenaeum.org.

WILLIAMSBURG

Church service moves outdoors Sunday

WILLIAMSBURG — There will be an outdoor worship service at the First Congregational Church in Williamsburg on Sunday, June 20, at 10 a.m.

People are encouraged to bring

their own chairs and gather on the front lawn of the church, 4 North Main Street, by 10 a.m.

In case of inclement weather, the service will be half inside the church.

Local resident earns academic honor

WILLIAMSBURG — Jessica Fish was named to the Dean’s List at the University of Vermont for the Spring 2021 semester.

To be named to the dean’s list, students must have a grade-point average of 3.0 or better and rank in the top 20 percent of their class in their respective college or school.

Since 1791, the University of Vermont has worked to move human-

kind forward. Committed to both research and teaching, UVM professors — world-class researchers, scholars, and artists — bring their discoveries into the classroom and their students into the field. Located in Burlington, Vermont, one of the nation’s most vibrant small cities and top college towns, UVM is a Public Ivy and top 100 national research university.

MIDDLEFIELD

ATM and election set for June 26

MIDDLEFIELD — The Selectboard voted to host the Annual Town Meeting at the Middlefield Fair Grounds at its meeting on Wednesday, June 9.

The Cow Barn offers plenty of room and shelter and was successful last year. A larger attendance is expected this year

and COVID-19 safety is still a priority. The Selectboard is working on establishing a sound system to ensure everyone is included in our meeting. The ATM will be held on Saturday, June 26, at 2 p.m.

The Annual Town Election will be held at the Town Hall on June 26 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

MIDDLEFIELD SENIOR CENTER

Lunch is served at the Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail, Middlefield, each Wednesday at noon.

A \$3 donation is suggested. Reservations should be made, and meal choice stated, by calling and

leaving a message at 413-623-9990 the Monday before. Pick-up and delivery are available.

The menu on Wednesday, June 23, is zesty seafood salad, lettuce, tomato, cucumber, macaroni salad, hot dog roll, and mixed fruit.

OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

HISTORY MATTERS

June 1 to June 15

By John Grimaldi and David Bruce Smith

On Jan. 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation put an end to slavery in the United States, but it took time for the news to advance. The state of Texas, for example, did not know anything about it until two years later, when Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston on June 19, 1865, after the War, and announced the news to the enslaved people there.

According to History.com, “The day instantly became an important one to the African American citizens of Texas, who held annual celebrations and even made pilgrimages to Galveston each Juneteenth.”

In no time, festivities proliferated throughout the nation; now, 47 states and the District of Columbia recognize Juneteenth as a holiday, but Texas was the first to decree annual observance of June 19th in 1979.

For more information about Juneteenth, the Grateful American Book Prize recommends books such as “The Fire Next Time,” by James Baldwin.

Lafayette

Benjamin Franklin, the Continental Congress’s envoy to France, was not enthusiastic about having 19-year-old Marquis de Lafayette volunteer his military expertise to the colonial revolutionary forces two years into the War. Nevertheless, Lafayette, whose full name was Marie-Joseph Paul Roch Yves Gilbert du Motier, made the difficult journey, and arrived in South Carolina on June 13, 1777. He hoped to be General George Washington’s second in command. Though his youth might have been an issue when he made his case to Congress, the Marquis’ offer of service was accepted by Washington, and he was commissioned as a Major-General.

Lafayette served with distinction in numerous battles, but in February 1778 when France and the American Revolutionary forces signed a formal treaty of alliance, it set off a declaration of war between France and Britain. By the time Lafayette returned to France, he had proven himself in battle, his loyalty to the American cause, and Benjamin Franklin admitted the Marquis had demonstrated his worth.

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends is Sarah Vowell’s “Lafayette in the Somewhat United States.”

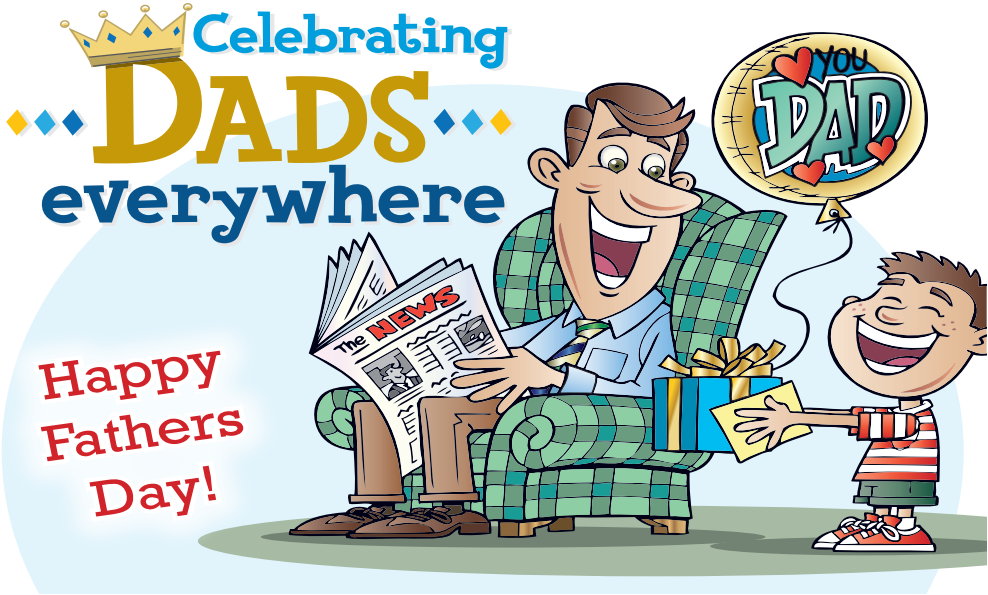
First Black West Point cadet

“Henry Flipper did all his country asked him to do.” President Bill Clinton said of Henry Ossian Flipper, the first African American graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Life was not easy for him. He was born into slavery in Thomasville, Georgia, in 1856; after he completed his studies on June 14, 1877, he wrote his autobiography, which revealed the cruel treatment he had received at West Point.

According to History.com, Flipper recalled how “he was socially ostracized by white peers and professors.”

After commencement, Flipper served as a second lieutenant in the African American 10thCavalry Regiment, known as the Buffalo Soldiers of Fort Sill, Oklahoma; there, he distinguished himself with his engineering prowess; as a matter of fact, a drainage system designed by him is listed as a National Historic Landmark. It’s known as “Flipper’s Ditch.”

His career was halted when he was brought up on charges of stealing government money, and conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman. A court martial acknowledged his innocence of the embezzlement charge, but found him guilty of the conduct accusations for which he was dishonorably discharged. Although Flipper had a “distinguished career” as a civilian engineer, he never reconciled the humiliating event.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The future of our energy

I have a few comments on Miriam Kurland’s letter of June 3 entitled “Falsehoods hurting climate change action” (The Country Journal, page 4).

I have had solar panels on my roof for 10 years and, as a retired electrical engineer, understand the math implications of our ongoing energy depletion and climate change adventure. After 40 years of climate warming awareness, we have as a nation not even agreed upon the reality of carbon dioxide acting as a greenhouse gas nor the limited amount of remaining fossil fuels. There is no chance at this late date of a paralyzed and self-serving congress of even taking the most basic of corrective, prudent actions.

I find Miriam Kurland’s demand that private forest land somehow be regulated to disallow photovoltaic construction plays into the hands of those that argue that climate change is just an excuse to override basic constitutional guarantees.

The present Massachusetts hardwood forests will be slowly replaced by southern tree varieties as the ambient temperature increases. It would add to CO2 warming to just let these hardwoods rot in place.

The Amazon River Forests are disappearing and with them any semblance of the climate of our past. A few acres of photovoltaics in Massachusetts hardly modifies that algebra or that of summers with no arctic sea ice to moderate and stabilize our weather.

Photovoltaics and wind turbines provide highly intermittent power and will never replace our present 24/7 energy infrastructure. So called clean energy is being pushed by those that make money selling clean, green energy fantasies.

A guess at our future: In 10 years — the amount of available petroleum will have peaked and will be in a slow but permanent decline. Our over leveraged financial debt system cannot survive limited and expensive energy. The average temperature will be two tenths of a degree Fahrenheit warmer, and the oceans are a few inches deeper.

In 100 years — we will have used all of our accessible remaining fossil energy. Electricity will be intermittent where available and any building over three stories high will have been abandoned. We will be cutting our forests to provide a few more years of low-grade thermal energy. The average temperature will be seven degrees Fahrenheit warmer, and the oceans are four feet deeper.

In 1,000 years — a few scattered tribes of humans will be living on the highest peaks of the Berkshires to escape the malarial lowland swamps and enjoy a few degrees of cooler temperature. They live underground to survive the deadly summer daytime temperatures. The oceans are 70 feet deeper and reach above Albany and Springfield via saltwater estuaries where river valleys once existed. The average temperature is 22 degrees Fahrenheit warmer and has not yet stabilized.

Never a cool moment up here on the Skyline.

Howard Knickerbocker
Middlefield

GUEST COLUMN

Observations here and there

It was fun to take a mini-vacation this past week! However, I have to admit that was weird to leave a newly-installed garden and a hen sitting on eggs in the care of my trusty house-sitter, especially with the mercury soaring the way it did. I came home to a garden that looked great and no chicks, yet...

Here are some observations from both during and after my vacation.

The vacation house had a major bunny problem. The owner installed a number of native plants to encourage pollinators and the rabbits seem to find most palatable. A small fence was installed around the perennials off the porch, but the new blueberries and serviceberry have been clear cut of anything rabbit height or less. Most of the shrubs in the mixed border have an umbrella-like appearance, with woody stems down low and growth at the top only.

I recommended switching up the repellents to keep the bunnies away, and this comes from personal experience. At the old house I never had a problem with rabbits in my garden until after the dog died. It would be safe to assume that “the marking of his territory” had something to do with my good



fortune. Outside of dog urine, there are lots of other deterrents out there that folks swear by. One is dried blood. The smell signals danger. To be effective it must be reapplied each week as well as after it rains. You can either sprinkle a narrow band around the perimeter of the border or place containers of it in the garden. Dried blood is a nitrogen fertilizer and is available at most garden centers. It will burn sensitive plants if applied directly on top of them, so sprinkle it a few inches away from the base. Along the same line would be ammonia sprays.

I have also heard of different home brews that you may or may not want to whip up in your blender. One consists of garlic, hot peppers and marigold leaves; maybe this combination would work better than the other tactics already tried. Again, these would need to be replenished periodically and switched on occasion to keep the scent new and dangerous.

I visited a couple of great nurseries on Cape Cod. The hydrangeas they sell there are amazing, and it was oh, so tempting to

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor should be 500 words or less in length. We require letter writers to include his or her name, town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

Mail letter to Country Journal, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or mail your letter to: countryjournal@turley.com.



\$12.50 Each

Digital Photos
TURLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC.
Purchase a photo that recently ran in one of our publications. Go to newspapers.turley.com/photo-request

ISSN NO. 0747-2471

Country Journal

The Country Journal (USPS 483-550) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

EDITOR
Peter Spotts
pspotts@turley.com

STAFF WRITER
Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
John Baskin
jbaskin@turley.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

@ Country Journal

WEB
countryjournal.turley.com

www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

OPINION

Hobbies

By Anne Sabo Warner

My father was in his forties when I was born, so he was old to me. It seemed he worked all the time, so I never imagined he had other interests. He hunted and fished when he could, but that was for food, or so I thought. We had an upstairs room in the farmhouse which we called the store-room, but it was really just a place where items no longer used were tossed. There I discovered clues about my father's other life when he was a young man. If I found something I didn't understand he was always happy to explain it to me.

There was a short, smooth board tapered at one end which he had used to stretch and cure fox furs. As boys he and his brothers did a bit of trapping, at first for muskrats. Both Sears Roebuck and Montgomery Ward were a ready market for muskrat furs. Fox- fur stoles were

popular years ago; I remember sitting behind a lady in church who had one draped around her neck, paws and beady eyes (glass) and all. Muskrats apparently got trapped out, for I never remember seeing or hearing of one when I was young. Foxes also became scarce, and the growth of fox farms put hobbyists out of business.

There was a small wooden box with a sliding lid which Dad called his bee box. He and his cronies would hunt bees. Sugar and oil of anise lured them to the box, first one bee and then the scouts. The bees would do a little dance, ending up with their bodies aligned towards the direction of their hive. Dad would then follow the line of sight- the beeline- and the bees- until spotting the nest, usually a hollow tree, which he marked, and the men would then go back at night with ax, pails and buckets to cut down the tree and harvest the honey. After the distur-

bance, the bees might swarm; they also would swarm because of over-crowding or a weak queen. Dad was sometimes called to relocate a swarm. Swarming bees are full of honey and docile, so can just be shaken into a basket or bag. Swarms will occupy any hollow cavity; Dad once had to hacksaw a five-gallon can to get a swarm out.

Beeswax could be used for many things, but Dad had a special twist of it for grafting. Apple trees were an important crop in times past and were carefully trimmed and tended, but limbs would break off, or were no longer productive, so the grafter would take a cutting (scion) from another tree, insert it just so under the bark of a healthy tree and seal the graft with beeswax. The tree would heal the wound, and the graft would produce apples in about three years Dad became interested in grafting early on, and it became an important sideline. He

was once hired to graft an entire orchard, but more often just a few trees that needed new limbs. One farmer wanted grafts of three varieties of apples on the same tree; most just wanted grafts of Macintosh.

In his later years, Dad worked only part-time before retiring at 83. He then had a chance to do a few things at leisure (he called it "puttying") — a little fishing, gardening, cutting brush, and his beloved woodpile. When he was about eighty a short stay in the hospital slowed him down a bit. He found an old rug-frame which I had abandoned years ago, and he started hooking rugs. He went at it like cutting cordwood., and we scrambled to keep him supplied with burlap patterns and yarn. He made a dozen or more; I lost count.

Anne Sabo Warner is a former Goshen resident who currently resides in Enfield, CT.

HILLTOWN HISTORY

Keyed In

By Deborah Daniels

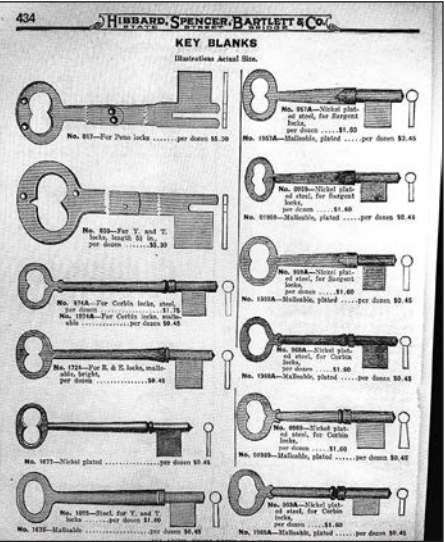
Consider Doe Bartlett and her love of keys. Shown in the photo is her wall of keys in the shape of an octopus with a clock in the center. Doesn't that artistry draw you into the history of keys? Notice the skeleton keys grouped around the large ornamental key, these were the first keys she collected. Her roller skate key hangs on that wall. Being a career artist by profession, displaying her collection came naturally to her. Then people would ask to borrow some keys to see if they could unlock the old trunk in the attic or Grandpa's closet door. That key was thrown away long ago by Grandma, something about a liquor cabinet in there! Mrs. Bartlett became the keeper of keys. Donations of keys came in. The octopus grew to take over her wall.

What is the history of skeleton keys? Keys and locks have been around since Babylon, 2000 BC. The first were wooden ones found in Egypt. The Greeks are credited with inventing the keyhole in 1300 BC. Skeleton type of hand forged keys were known to be used by Vikings. The skeleton key is not called this because it looks like a skull on a key. They originally functioned as a pass key that would open several locks in the same house. The skeleton refers to the essential parts of a key; the bow or head of the key which you held in your fingers, the barrel, either hollow or solid cylinder and the bit or serrated teeth at the end. They were made of iron or brass.

Interestingly as soon as locks were made there was a dark world working to break them. Henry VIII traveled with his own lock and key, the Beddington lock that was installed on his chamber door wherever he stayed. Talk about security. London smiths were forbidden to make keys from an impression in 1385. The keys to the castle would not be copied.



Different styles of skeleton key bows. Online image



A 1992 key advertisement. Online image



Doe Bartlett pictured with her wall of keys. Submitted photo by Deborah Daniels



A skeleton key with all teeth filed down, right, pictured with a normal padlock key on the left. The normal key will open its specific lock, but the skeleton key could open any lock the with that keyhole. Online image

A better lock and key system was invented by Linus Yale Sr. in 1848 for use by banks. It was his son Linus Yale Jr. who refined the system to create the pin tumbler cylinder lock that is still used today. Linus Yale Jr. got his first start in work painting portraits. His line drawings came in handy when he transferred into a career in locksmith design. He studied the ancient Egyptian locks and developed the cylinder lock. Guess where he opened his lock shop? It was in Shelburne Falls in 1860 where he went on to file 9 patents for locks. He specialized in bank locks often demonstrating how he could successfully pick the prominently used bank locks of the day. He then set up the Yale Manufacturing Co. with a business partner in 1868 in Stamford CT. You might say he was the father of locksmith. Yes, there is a sport of defeating locking systems by lock picking, lock bumping and using a variety of skills formerly known only to locksmiths and security professionals. There are societies that meet to share

knowledge and compete with each other to break locks. And it isn't done in prison!

Back to skeleton keys, dating them is difficult. Experts recommend knowing the age of the house or when the locks were put in to estimate the key's age. Most keys have no identifying details. Sometimes the design on the bow will reveal information on when the key was made. The Gothic trefoil design of three rings is a very old design symbolic of the Holy Trinity. Skeleton keys come in different sizes because they were used as locks on cabinets and house doors to garden gates and barn doors. Skeleton keys were used on doors in homes up to the 1940's, thereafter the pin tumbler lock or Yale lock with its flat key took over.

If security is of paramount concern, I recommend the monastery's use of three different locks with the keys being held by three separate people who all had to be present in order to open the lock as pretty effective. Looking for the perfect graduation gift, how about a skeleton key

to a bright future. Celebrate our love of history.

Do you have a memory or historical curiosity from the Hilltowns that you'd like to share with your neighbors? Send your story and photos to countryjournal@turley.com.

HISTORY

from page 4

The Army overturned his "dishonorable" status in 1976, 36 years after his death, and in 1999, President Clinton granted Flipper a full posthumous pardon.

History Matters is a biweekly feature courtesy of The Grateful American Book Prize, which is given to children's books that emphasize the importance of American history.

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends Henry Ossian Flipper's West Point autobiography, "The Colored Cadet at West Point" and Jane Eppinga's "Henry Ossian Flipper: West Point's First Black Graduate."

PROJECTS

from page 4

bring one home. Unfortunately, I had just bought one a month ago that was advertised to be good and hardy, but not the blue I had wanted. More of a purple-blue. It was neat to come home and see that the advice I had given others for many years actually worked. By adding sulfur to the edges of the planting hole my new hydrangea is turning a lovely shade of blue. Yay! I am honestly amazed at how quickly the changeover took place. If you'd rather a pink toned hydrangea, raise the pH of the soil by sprinkling a couple of cups of dolomitic lime around the base of the plant once or twice throughout the growing season. A higher pH will prevent aluminum

from being drawn up by the plant; aluminum has a bluing effect on the flowers of this particular type of hydrangea (H. macrophylla). Likewise, hydrangeas absorb more aluminum from acidic soil, so to make pink hydrangeas blue, do as I did and add sulfur to the soil around hydrangeas in the spring.

Another thing I came home to was sad peppers. You don't have to be a pepper psychologist to make an assessment as to why. First, they were planted during unseasonably warm mid-May weather, only to have temperatures plummet into the high 30s at night. Then, no less than a week later, we have August-like temperatures and a drought.

So why are the pepper plants pale and pathetic? Probably all of the above and then some. I will likely give them some fish and seaweed emulsion and hope that they can transition to healthy plants as the temperatures and moisture moderate. Let's hope they do, anyway!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

BLANDFORD

Three candidates vie for Select Board seat June 26

By Mary Kronholm

BLANDFORD — TJ Cousineau, Michael Hutchins, both of Chester Road, are on the ballot running for the position on the Select Board. There is a third write-in candidate vying for the slot on the select board, Jeffrey Allen of 100 Main Street. This is the only contest on the ballot.

TJ Cousineau served in town as both Boy Scout and Cub Scout leader and was a member of the Boy Scout Council for 12 years. He has been active for 28 years with the Blandford Fair; and served as Vice President for 26 years. He held a seat on the Planning Board for ten years and has been the town's representative to the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission for 12 years, serving on the Executive Committee for the past five years and treasurer for the past two. He has served as Cemetery Commissioner for over 20 years. All are volunteer positions.

Cousineau said he "knows the ins and outs" of the town and town government, and added "I do what I think is right. I just love this town and I'll always do what is right for this town."

He believes his long-time involvement in town, both government and non-government gives him the experience required to be a selectman. He has also served on various committees at the behest of the select board.

Looking at the town's future, he would like to see moderate growth and, "young families moving back into town as well as more involvement from the young people at town functions and more involvement in town positions."

According to Cousineau, small towns draw people who want to be independent but they need to be reminded that "small towns depend on everyone," and he believes the independence is the draw. It is important to Cousineau to maintain the town's rural atmosphere and he is not in favor of cluster housing, "it's not a healthy thing for a town."

He said he will be an active participant as a board member and "do what's necessary to be done."

He enjoys working with Town Administrator Joshua A. Garcia and said he'd like to see him, with the select board, establish some ground rules. "You need to know limitations," he said. He sees the town administrator as the filter for organizing the town's needs to present to the board and respects his communication efforts.

Problems facing the town include the older generation wanting to keep things the way they are, "but if we don't move forward and with plans for the future, the town will die," he said. A non-commercial

turnpike access would inspire "modest growth," he said, which would help rehabilitate the school system.

He seeks the office because "I was asked, nominated, and I said, 'ok, I'll run.'" He also loves the town.

A 45-year resident, Cousineau said, "I love my wife [Co], love my town, love the people in the town, and I can tease them."

Hutchins has served on the Planning Board for two years and as chair helped rewrite the zoning bylaws, an ongoing process.

"The re-write has brought the town up to state standards so there's full protection for the residents," he said.

A resident since April 2019, Hutchins believes his work experience as Corporate Supply Manager for Mestek and all its companies worldwide gives him the knowledge and background to serve on the select board. He is responsible for procurement, suppliers, and contracts; all of these types of things will be beneficial to the town. He also manages the motor vehicle fleet, overseeing trucking. He is "well-versed in Department of Transportation rules and regulations, all beneficial to the town."

In the coming years, he would like to see the town become more prosperous, to have more industry "that does not involve solar." He would also like to see lower taxes by generating money from industry; "bring in enough money to have lower taxes." He suggested that more three-phase electrical access would provide the opportunity to bring in different types of industry.

"Maybe recreational," he said, "anything else to keep the small-town atmosphere."

He plans on being an active participant on the select board if successful and believes the town administrator needs to take care of the daily operations for the town and still answer to the Select Board, which ultimately has responsibility for the town.

Hutchins said he would like to have a town administrator stay in the position for a longer period of time to provide needed stability, advice, and yet be responsible to the Select Board.

One of the problems he sees as facing the town is the necessity to attract younger residents.



Jeffrey Allen



TJ Cousineau



Michael Hutchins

"We need to find a way to entice people to come here, we need a reason," he said. "It's a challenge. We need to find a way to convert the ski area somehow to bring in new residents."

The town's financial picture is better now than it was.

"It's stable, and for the next 20 years there's going to be a large influx of cash. We can't sit back though," he said. "We need to continue finding new sources; anything that will continue to make the town thrive."

According to Hutchins, Blandford is not as bad as some of the other Hilltowns, but the need is there to find ways to better the town.

Hutchins is seeking election "because I was asked." He said he is happy on the Planning Board, but "if the townspeople want me [as a select board member], I'll do it."

According to Hutchins, there is still a lot of work to do on the Planning Board.

"I'm young at 55, and I'll be around for a while. I am a good candidate and can bring valuable knowledge to the board," he said.

Hutchins also likes everything Blandford.

"I like the small-town feel, the community, the privacy," he said.

He does admit to not liking the noise from the turnpike and he feels that a local access has "been closed out by the state."

Coming from rural Vermont as a high school graduate, Hutchins said he has worked his way up. "I am very good at writing contracts, fixing their flaws, and that's what makes me a good candidate. I am a project person and work with a team approach," he said.

Jeffrey Allen is tossing his hat in the ring as a write-in candidate for the select board. He is a seventh-generation Blandford family resident. He served as a volunteer firefighter and spent five years on the Planning Board and has "a lot of love for the community."

As a real native Blandfordite, Allen said he's "seen a lot of changes." He does not feel that Select Board predecessors have been fiscally responsible by increasing the town's indebtedness. He has worked in various trade industry positions that have given him experience with equipment. As a construction worker, he is aware of the industry and all its facets,

electrical, plumbing, heating, and large machinery.

"What we need is a more common sense approach," he said, regarding equipment and equipment maintenance.

Down the road he would like to consider the possibility of any fulltime employee living in town, "so they understand the tax structure we face," he said. Maintenance especially concerns him.

"For instance, the post office parking lot needs maintenance," he said, citing the need for asphalt repair and sweeping up the sand. "We need a maintenance program, so we don't have to replace intersections clear."

Allen very much wants to keep the rural atmosphere of the town. "Growing up here, I saw the pride in other communities. And all communities are not the same. People come to the Hilltowns 'to get away' but the community has to bring people together."

He will be an active participant as a select board member. He expects that the town administrator would do the research, seek out grants, and work with the Finance Committee and the board if there's a need for a big purchase. He believes the town administrator should be the eyes and ears for the select board and keep track of the day to day town functions and go to the board with his findings.

"How much money have we spent on equipment in the last five years?" he asked considering the value.

He would like to see the taxes "kept down" and have clear policies in place. He sees communication between all departments as essential, critical and a true necessity. "We need clear policies in place, and the board must meet regularly with all departments," he said.

Regarding the town's financial stability, Allen said he doesn't feel good about it at all. "We're getting in too deep," he said. He suggested the possibility of offering the land where the fire department now stands to the neighbor, who has lived with the fire station partly on his property.

He'd prefer to see the property on the tax roll producing income.

Allen is now retired and has the time to do things for the town. He would also come to the board with a history. "I'm not afraid of change," he said. "You have to learn to roll" and adapt.

He enjoys the town, and likes the local camaraderie, the daily banter with people going to the Post Office, he reminisced, and would like to see more of it.

"I'm an old Yankee; honest, a hard working person who tells it the way it is," he concluded.

The Annual Town Election is Saturday, June 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tales and tails focus of summer reading program

BLANDFORD — Porter Memorial Library Director Nicole Daviau announced this season's in-person summer reading program. This year's theme "Tales and Tails" will explore animals from living rooms in town to the Australian Outback and everywhere in between.

A kick-off party featuring the Flying Dogs will be on Saturday, June 26, from 11 a.m. to noon at the Blandford Town Office baseball field. The Flying High Dogs and trainer Mike Piazza are multiple time world finalists and world record holder in the sport of K-9 Frisbee. They have performed for the National Football League, National Basketball Association, ESPN, and Animal Planet.

"This will be a show to remember," said Daviau.

This program is made possible by a generous donation from Judy Kelly, former interim Porter Memorial Library

Director. Registration is not required for this outdoor event.

The Summer Reading weekly program begins on Monday, June 28, from 1 to 2 p.m. and features a story, crafts, and prizes. Guest speakers include veterinarian Dr. Hazel Holman of Blandford Animal Hospital and there will be special animal visitors to many of these programs as well.

The weekly programs are as follows: June 28, Animal Adoptions; July 6, Woodland Wonderland; July 12, Jungle Tales; July 19, Fish Tales; July 26, Tales of Asia; Aug. 2, Savana-mals; Aug. 9, Tales from Down Under; Aug. 16, Party Animals!

Register at the library in advance for each week as spaces are limited.

Everyone is invited to submit photos of their pets to be included in the virtual Pet Parade slideshow. Email photos to blandfordporterlibrary@gmail.com.

Voters made inactive after census not returned to clerk

BLANDFORD — Town Clerk Doris Jemiolo announced Monday, June 14, that notices have been sent to voters who have become inactive because of failure to return the most recent 2021 Street List form. This is the annual town census.

The Street List form was sent to every household in town on Jan. 15 and was to have been returned to the town clerk by the end of January. The deadline was on the form.

If voters wish to maintain their active status, they must complete the return form and send it to the Town Clerk. First class postage has been applied to the return form.

Voters may want to check their status before the Annual Town Meeting on June 21 and the Annual Town Election on June 26.

Any questions may be directed to Jemiolo at 413-848-4279, ext. 203.

Corrections policy

If you notice a factual error in our pages, please let us know, so that we can set the record straight. Email information to countryjournal@turley.com, or call us at 413-283-8393. Corrections will be printed in the same section where the error originally occurred.

BLANDFORD

Budget reduced for town meeting voters this year

By Peter Spotts

BLANDFORD — Voters will face 22 articles when Annual Town Meeting convenes on Monday, June 21, including a town budget which town officials have worked hard to keep down as the community begins post-recovery efforts for COVID-19.

The proposed fiscal 2022 operating budget is about \$462,000 lower than fiscal 2021. In the budget overview, the Finance Committee said they'd made a goal to not add new taxes. Revenues are bolstered by an estimated \$180,034 from two solar payments in lieu of taxes the town is expecting and not including a 2 ½ tax levy increase.

The budget also is based on the Gateway Regional School Alternative Assessment. If it fails to pass all six towns, then the budget will revert to statutory, which will cost the town an additional \$55,427. However, the budget has the flexibility to accommodate the increase.

"The Finance Committee relied on a combination of conservative budget controls, creative budgeting solutions, and moderate favorable growth in local revenues to develop a balanced budget with no service reductions in fiscal 2022 and were able to make adjustments in areas that are in need," stated the report.

Vocational education costs are \$120,000 with another \$30,200 for vocational transportation. Article 5 looks to set aside \$180,034 to the Building Stabilization Fund for upcoming work.

"We have a project we are working on to build a new highway garage and rehabilitate the existing highway garage to get it ready for Fire Department use," Town administrator Joshua Garcia said. "The \$180,034, although being raised and appropriated, we're anticipating collecting a total of \$180,034 through PILOT payments from two active solar projects in town which we look forward to balance on the tax recap."

For Free Cash transfers this year, the town is proposing to move \$287,000 to the Capital Projects account, \$100,000 for the Energy Stabilization Fund, \$25,000 for the Library Stabilization Fund, and \$100,000 to pay the principal on road debt. This money will help fund \$30,000 for a UTV for the Fire Department, \$7,000 for Class A uniforms, and \$10,000 for shaker repair at the library.

Articles 12 through 14 cover Water Department projects. Article 12 will move \$5,000 from Water Department Retained Earnings to the Water Stabilization Fund and then Article 13 seeks to fund \$188,088 from Water Retained Earnings for a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition at the Water Department.

Article 14 will address funding the emergency repairs of the water main break on Russell Stage Road. Garcia expects the exact total to be known when ATM happens.

"The Total cost for the water main break is unknown at this time since it isn't complete yet. But we should know what that dollar amount will be by town meeting and the plan is to pay for out of water stabilization," he said.

Article 15 asks to transfer \$70,000 from the Muncipal Light Stabilization fund to defray broadband operation expenses with Article 16 voting to appropriate \$500,000 for fiber optic construction and installation in connection with the town's construction and buildout of the broadband system.

Article 19 is a bylaw amendment proposal to provide some financial relief to elderly dog owners by charging no fee for a dog license if the owner is older 70.

Article 20 proposes to authorize the town clerk to make non-substantive ministerial corrections and revisions only to the grammar, formatting, and numbering of the town bylaws. Garcia said it was discussed as being important to have this flexibility.

Article 21 was requested by the Planning Board and would make it so a committee, commission, or board member in town would not be disqualified

from voting in a matter solely because they were absent from no more than one session of a hearing at which testimony or other evidence is received.

Article 22 will ask the town to authorize the Selectboard to petition the General Court for special legislation to provide property tax exemption incentives for firefighters residing in town.

"The idea is to offer an incentive for volunteer fire fighters a reduction to real property tax obligations or motor vehicle and trailer excise tax obligations of volunteers in exchange for their volunteer services to the Fire Department," Garcia said. "Eligibility requirements and other program guidelines are still being worked on contingent on the article passing. If passed, the Select Board can proceed forward with petitioning the General Court for special legislation to organize such a program."

There are also proposed changes to move the Annual Town Meeting from the first Monday of May each year to the first Monday of June each year, to move the election from the second Saturday in May to the second Saturday in June from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Annual Town Meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Monday, June 21, in the Blandford Town Hall. For a full copy of the warrant and budget, visit townofblandford.com.



Valerie George and Randy Gilman work on establishing new vegetable beds at the area outside the Town Offices.



Randy Gilman preps the soil in the newly constructed raised beds. Photos by Mary Kronholm

Garden cheer brought to town offices by town residents

BLANDFORD — Valerie George and her husband Randy Gilman have again tackled gardening near the rear entrance to the town office building. This year the couple has replaced crumbling old beds and filled the new frames with rich, dark garden soil sure to grow anything.

George reported that the entire

effort was welcomed by everyone at the Town Offices, and "there was lots of support from town officials including Town Administrator Joshua A. Garcia, Administrative Assistant Joann Martin, Council on Aging Director Margit Mikuski, and Highway Department Superintendent Rene Senecal.

The Highway Department went to Home Depot to pick up the lumber, which came in at \$200 under projected budget, thanks to Store Manager Seth Ziegler. The Recreation Committee covered the cost of the lumber. The loam came from Granville's Rockwood Farm and the COA covered the cost of the soil.

George and Gilman tend the gardens that produce vegetables as well as flowers and the produce goes to the COA and is distributed to town seniors.

According to Mikuski, George relayed the information that her home garden is in the shade, so she enjoys being able to garden near the Town Offices.

WORTHINGTON

SPEED

from page 1

"It throws a huge dust, sand cloud everywhere and many of the abutters are complaining," Administrative Assistant Peggy O'Neal said. "Anybody who drives on it, if the person who is in front of them are traveling at [a high] speed, you're just driving into sand and grit. It's awful."

The town's second concern is dealing with a change to the road curve near 168 Old North Road. Town officials sent a letter to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation on June 4 expressing concerns with the impact of horizontal curve being superelevated by 6%. The issue was brought to the board by Resident and Architect Kevin O'Connor after he and James Downey were informed a stone wall they'd constructed along the road would need to be moved.

"The stone walls referred to were agreed to be untouchable when addressed in early design meetings, and there was also a request in those meetings to lower the speed limit," O'Connor said in an email on June 10. "That was in 2014 or 2015. We had no input after

that. As the email from John Morgan says, we still don't have resolution, and a positive outcome has been more or less ruled out by him."

He continued, "One side of 143 on the east will be raised 30 inches — "banking the turn" — in order to keep the speed limit at 45 mph. This will make it difficult to impossible to access the garage on that side, and it will bury the walls that were just rebuilt last summer. We were told to move the wall on the other side — now stalled in its reconstruction — by one foot towards the old house — at our expense."

O'Neal added there are additional concerns about how the curve change will impact speeding on the road, which is already an issue. Along the stretch is the Hilltown Community Health Center and The Maples senior housing.

"Many people are concerned by banking it so people can go faster, its already a big contention in town that it's a straightaway that encourages speeding," she said. "We'd love to have the speed limit be changed on that stretch of road. It's been 45 miles per hour, which

wouldn't be an issue except people go faster than 45 miles per hour... It's just a pretty dangerous situation, but it's pretty daunting to change the speed limit."

John Morgan, Section Manager with CHA Consulting, Inc., informed the town MassDOT does not support any design change involving the curve. The Board of Selectmen drafted another letter to MassDOT on June 14.

"First, it should be noted that neither the Permitting Plans dated May 2019 nor the public hearings on this project served to fairly alert the Town or abutters at this location to the 6-degree super-elevation at this curve or the resulting drainage and driveway impacts," stated the letter. "It was only at the end of May when pavement removal and initial grading was underway that these impacts became apparent to the abutters who brought them to our attention."

The board proposed several actions to be done before final grading including redetermining and staking the proposed centerline profile elevations to ensure super-elevations are graded from those

benchmarks, consider lowering the C/L profile from above Cummington Road to some point at or beyond Station 250, furnish the garage abutter with the driveway cross section plans per the outcome of a technical meeting on the super-elevation issue, and furnish drainage swale cross-sections to the owners at 168 Old North Road.

The board added it will also be pursuing a review of the speed limits between the roundabout and Cold Street.

COA to hold picnic

WORTHINGTON — It is time for the annual Council on Aging Summer Picnic! The COA will be hosting a drive-thru picnic at the Worthington Congregational Church on Monday, July 12, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and is reservation only. Food will be provided by resident Rick Messier and his Worthy-Que Smoke N' BBQ for curbside pick-up. Call 413-238-1999 to reserve a meal. Deadline to register is Monday, June 28.

FABULOUS FLAGS



Some flags wished for love and others to see their friends and go to school without having to wear masks. Wish Flags were made by students and staff of New Hingham Elementary School in Chesterfield. *Photos by Peter Spotts*



One flag wishes for Trevor the Cat. Students were able to choose whatever they wanted to wish for from eating a chocolate candy bar to no more COVID-19 and everything in between.



One flag quotes Plato about kindness while another shares a message of peace.

BUY DIRECT

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN
CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS..... **\$2⁹⁹** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH
PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS..... **\$1⁷⁷** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN
ST LOUIS PORK RIBS..... **\$3⁶⁶** lb

SLICED IN OUR DELI

USDA INSP.
PASTRAMI..... **\$5⁹⁹** lb

GREAT ON THE GRILL

USDA INSP. STORE MADE ITALIAN MARINATED
BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST **\$2⁹⁹** lb

USDA INSP. STORE MADE KOREAN BBQ MARINATED
BONELESS PORK BUTT STRIPS ... **\$3¹⁹** lb

USDA INSP. KAYEM OLD TYME 2 1/2 LB BOX
NATURAL CASING HOT DOGS ... **\$10⁹⁹** ea

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS
BEEF STRIPLOIN
CUT FREE **\$7⁷⁷** lb WHOLE OR HALF

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN
BEEF PORTERHOUSE or T-BONE STEAKS
\$8⁸⁸ lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN 20 CT PER BOX
80% LEAN GROUND BEEF PATTIES
\$12⁷⁵ ea **\$17⁰⁰** ea
3 OZ 4 OZ

AND SAVE \$\$\$

USDA INSP. FRESH
BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG **\$1⁹⁹** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN
CHICKEN LEG 1/4s 40 LB BOX **\$14⁹⁹** ea

USDA INSP. FROZEN
VARIETY PACK CUT-UP CHICKEN 15 LB BAG **69¢** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN
WHOLE DUCKS..... **\$4²⁹** lb

USDA INSP. FARM FRESH
LARGE EGGS..... **\$9⁹⁹** dz

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

90 Meat Outlet

HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4
Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3

90 Avocado St. Springfield
413-737-1288
www.90meat.com

SALE DATES: 6/17/21 - 6/23/21

BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

We reserve the right to limit quantities.



All the flags were flown outside the school before being packed up and shipped to Nantucket to be sewn into one combined flag.

GET CONNECTED THIS SUMMER

with the Hilltown Family Center

- Register for in person outdoor play groups this summer.
- Register for our Fall School Readiness Program for 3–5-year-olds
- Receive text messages to boost your child’s learning - text HCHC to 70138
- Check in on your child’s development and receive age-appropriate activities with our ASQ screening program

Get help with referrals for SNAP, Early Intervention, health education, insurance help, fuel assistance, job search, domestic violence advocacy, childcare vouchers, and housing.




Contact Susan LeBarron at
667-2203 ext. 310 or
slebarron@hchcweb.org



Hilltown Community Health Center

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.



Joy Salvini
Broker Associate
RE/MAX COMPASS

Chester Office: 585 Rt. 20
(413) 351-5277
email: Joy.Salvini@comcast.net
Each office independently owned and operated

Experience the JOY of Buying or Selling a Home

FLORUM
HORTICULTURE

Plant, Garden & Landscape
Care
Consultation
Coaching

(413) 268-6510

florumhorticulture.com

\$\$\$ SAVE MONEY \$\$\$
DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE!!!



LAFOND SEPTIC SERVICES
We'll get your system back on track and back on schedule, call today!
413-667-3622
lafond.septic@gmail.com
Montgomery MA

A DAY IN THE HOLE



The Hilltown Hikers led a group hike to the Spencer Cellar Hole in Dayville Chester on a rainy day at the end May.
Submitted photos



Kim Kelliher points out stamped concrete.



Dan Lombardo holds up bed springs found at the cellar hole.



Sandra Hayslett and Liz Massa find a gap between the rocks.



The group mingles while waiting to move and get back on the trail.



Sandra Hayslett and Don Lombardo team up to hug a tree.



Michele Kenney poses inside the cellar hole.

Family Owned

Since 1985

T.J.

BARK MULCH

INC.

Visit TJBarkMulch.com for Coupons

18 Different All Organic Double Ground Premium Mulches

Pine • Spruce • Hemlock • Cedar • Red, Black & Brown

Playground • Forest Blend • Topsoil • Seasoned Firewood

Now CARRYING DECORATIVE STONE

We are a mulch manufacturer, not a resaler of other people's products. This means no middleman, and you save on the best product around. Come visit us on the web for great deals!

413-569-2400 | 25 Sam West Road, Southwick, MA | 860-654-1975

GOT A PROBLEM WITH YOUR POOPER? CALL...

Cooper

EXCAVATING AND TRUCKING INC.

We Provide:

Title V Inspections • System Backup • Septic Pumping

Perc Test • D-Box Repair • Video Line Inspections

New Septic System Design and more...

DUMPSTER RENTALS

DRIVEWAYS

LAND CLEARING

DRAINAGE

FOUNDATIONS

SITE WORK

VISA

Master Card

Discover

AMERICAN EXPRESS

413-568-3164 • Blandford, MA

WWW.COOPEREXCAVATINGMA.COM

f

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of the 4th of July, there will be an **EARLY AD DEADLINE**

To advertise, place your ad no later than **NOON**

Friday, July 2

– Thank you!

A TURLEY PUBLICATION

www.turley.com

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

WESTHAMPTON



Sue Slowick receives her syrup sampler after being entered into the drawing by renewing her membership before June 1. Submitted photo by Meaghan Schwelm

Library raffle reaps sweet reward

WESTHAMPTON — Sue Slowick and Frank Stasz, of Edwards Road, were the happy winners of the maple syrup sampler sponsored by the Friends of the Westhampton Library.

Six Westhampton maple syrup producers donated pints of varying syrup grades and colors, from amber to dark. Slowik and Stasz celebrated the first bottle with a batch of French toast.

“I’ve never won anything before!” said Slowick when she arrived to pick up her prize. “We have been regular users of the library and members of the Friends for as long as I can remember. In addition, we always make an additional ‘fill the shelves’ donation.”

By renewing their membership early, they were automatically entered to win a syrup sampler this year. For the past five years, the Friends have received artwork, ceramics, photography, quilts, and now maple syrup from area residents to be used as an incen-

tive to donors to enroll or renew their memberships during the first half of the calendar year. This year, over 88 households were entered by the deadline of June 1.

“I am always reading a book as well as listening to an audiobook,” Slowick said. “Prior to Covid, I was familiar with the Libby app for downloading my audiobooks, but I wasn’t much on E-books, preferring an actual hardcover. But when everything shut down, it forced me to start reading e-books and also expand my libraries beyond CWMARS.”

The Friends of the Library would like to thank the following Westhampton maple syrup producers for their generous donations: the Parsons family at Mayval Farm, the Montagues at Bridgmont Farm, the Holts at Steve’s Sugar Shack, the Norris family of Runnymede Farm, the Alois of Hanging Mtn. Farm and Arthur Clapp & Sons.

CUMMINGTON

ATM honors Selectman for 25 years of service

By Peter Spotts

CUMMINGTON — The warrant for Annual Town Meeting was a quick affair, but the highlight was long time selectman Monica Vandoloski being recognized by the community and State Rep. Natalie Blais, D-Sunderland, at the meeting on Friday, June 4.

Vandoloski was the first woman elected to the Selectboard in Cummington in 1979 and served for 25 years over two stints on the board. Her first stint was from 1979 to 1993 and then she returned to the ballot in 2008 and chose to not seek re-election this past May. While serving the citizens of the town, Vandoloski reflected on the best and worst moments she helped guide the town through.

“There were many projects, but 1979 was the Town’s 200th anniversary and what a wonderful time that was with folks coming from far to be part of the celebrations,” Vandoloski said. “Families in Town gathered with their families who all were part of the entire celebration.”

“Rep. Blais and gave a citation to Monica in recognition for her years on the Selectboard,” said Selectboard Chair Eliza Dragon. “Some other folks stepped up and spoke about Monica and just gave thanks. It was really nice.”

Vandoloski added, “One of the worst was July 1986 when we had a torrential rainstorm in a very short amount of time that completely washed out many of our roads including, at that time, the new section of Route 112. We worked day and night with our state legislators, congressman, county commissioners, state Department of Public Works and with their assistance and that of local contractors, etc., we were able to make roads passable.”

While there were challenges in learning rules, regulations, learning how

the town functions, and adapting to the changes that occurred during her hiatus from the board between 1993 and 2008, Vandoloski was impressed by how unselfishly town citizens donate their time to serve the people.

“The people in the Town of Cummington are the greatest. I have enjoyed working, meeting, or whatever with the folks,” she said.

The town isn’t losing Vandoloski as she was appointed to the Administrative Secretary position.

Dragon said all 14 articles passed unanimously with about 50 voters in attendance. Warrant items included \$2,500 for one set of turnout gear for the Fire Department, \$2,500 for a portable radio for the department, and \$10,000 to continue a cemetery project the town began in the past, but had to put on hold last year due to COVID-19. The Highway Department’s purchase of a new Bucket Loader for \$154,500 was approved as well.

The town budget increased 1.75% from fiscal 2021 to fiscal 2022 as town officials worked hard to keep increases contained to unfunded mandates and contractual increases where possible. Notable changes included \$7,000 for Police Department training and \$13,000 for the police bridge program for police reform; increasing the accountant from \$11,000 to \$20,000 and increasing the collector by \$1,500 to keep compensation competitive; raise the Fire Chief stipend \$2,000 and firefighter stipend by \$1,000; and a \$6,000 increase for The Board of Health operating budget to bring it more in line with their expenses.

The town also had a \$45,000 decrease in its Central Berkshire Regional School District Operating Expenses due to the town having less students in the five-year rolling average assessment calculations.

Local resident named to Dean’s List

CUMMINGTON — Clarissa Pollard was named to Dean’s List at St. Lawrence University.

A member of the Class of 2024, Pollard was recognized for her academic accomplishments during the Spring 2021 semester.

Founded in 1856, St. Lawrence University is a private, independent liberal arts institution of about 2,500 students located in Canton, New York. The educational opportunities at St.

Lawrence inspire students and prepare them to be critical and creative thinkers, to find a compass for their lives and careers, and to pursue knowledge and understanding for the benefit of themselves, humanity, and the planet. Through its focus on active engagement with ideas in and beyond the classroom, a St. Lawrence education leads students to make connections that transform lives and communities, from the local to the global.

CHESTERFIELD

FLAGS

from page 1

with every grade, kindergarten through sixth, explaining wish flags, hopes and dreams, and working through the process with each student to identify what they wanted to display on their flag.

“It was really a joy to with all the classes,” Paret said. “Specifically, we wanted to think after this year we’ve had, it’s a way to have closure.”

Paret used “Share Your Rainbow,” a book with illustrations from 18 different artists depicting post-pandemic pictures and thoughts, to help inspire the children with ideas for their flags. Students took it to heart as many incorporated rainbow themes into their flags, which was heavily featured in the book.

Children crafted a variety of ideas. Some chose to focus on big picture issues like helping the planet and environment, while others simply wanted to be able to see their friends, and not wear masks, or eat a chocolate bar. One poignant flag wished their mother were still here.

“We talked about simple things that we don’t do as much anymore,” Paret said.

With their ideas prepared, the students then went to Quiles, who helped them take their wishes from head to canvas. After experimenting with markers, Quiles quickly learned a change was needed to move the children away from using text to communicate their thoughts and settled on oil pastels. He also discussed the significance of color in Buddhist tradition as part of the crafting experience.

“They came to me with those ideas, and we turned those into visuals,” he said. “I wanted the students to understand the similarity between being written on a flag and being a wish.”

The flags are part of a global initiative called “Wishes From...” Artistic

Director Mark Carapezza launched the initiative in 2011 in response to a local tragedy and increased drug use and violence in Nantucket. He and a small team of friends collected, dyed, and ripped used bed sheets to make flags and worked with schools, elderly homes, local events, and private parties to collect wishes. At the end of it all, 215 flags were displayed across the community.

For the COVID-19 pandemic, “Wishes From...” is looking to educate, inspire, and build empathy through artistic expression on a global level. Flags are being created across continents and will be sent to the “Wishes From...” headquarters to be sewn into one flag, including the works of New Hingham Elementary School.

The flags will be returned to their home locations and then displayed at the same during the lunar cycle, a 28-day global artwork expression to fos-

ter empathy and camaraderie from the Americas to Europe, Africa, and Asia.

“It’s pretty neat to be part of a global experience,” Paret said.

While Murphy, Paret, and Quiles looked out over the four groups of flags outside New Hingham, children brought their families to come find their own flag and look at the creations of their fellow classmates, a true bonding experience for the community after the past year.

“From custodians to educators, we wanted everyone in the community invested in the project and the process because we experienced this pandemic together,” Murphy said. “It’s symbolic to our community.”

“I love how we’re all interacting with it,” added Quiles.

For more information about “Wishes From...” visit <https://wishes-from.org>.

CHESTER

Chester Hill Association names Citizen of the Year

CHESTER — Please join the Chester Hill Association in honoring its “Citizen of the Year for 2020,” Cynthia Loiselle.

In November of 1961, Edgar and Helen Skedden from Longmeadow bought a parcel of land on the four corners of Bromley and East River Road in Chester. Included in the sale was a small house, later purchased by the Pike family when their home was taken to create Littleville Reservoir. The Skedden’s then built a summer home on the parcel abutting the Kelso Homestead. The property encompassed an apple orchard, wild blueberries and wonderful views of the valley beyond.

Cynthia and her older brother grew up spending time in Chester with their grandparents. From an early age Helen encouraged and taught them the love of nature and the outdoors. She gave each

of them binoculars to watch out the big picture window for anything that might be traveling over and through the yard.

Edgar died in 1978 and Helen in 1983. It was her bequest that the land be kept as a wildlife sanctuary and the small house left in perpetuity to her family. It would take 20 years for her wishes to be granted. In 2003 Helen’s granddaughter, Cynthia, and her family moved into the little house.

Our Citizen of the Year Award for 2020 goes to a very deserving woman who took the life and words of her grandmother to heart. Born in Hudson, Mass. and growing up in Marlboro gave the opportunity to experience a different way of life spending summers here in Chester. She has been involved in the



Cynthia Loiselle

community here since 2003, but actually fell in love with Chester many years before. Some of her earliest memories were of walking up the driveway of Kelso Homestead to give blueberries she and her brother had picked to Elizabeth Kelso, Harriet Gilman’s mother. Married to her husband for 31 years, they have five children and six grandchildren between them. Joining the church, she quickly became involved holding offices of Trustee and Deacon. Helping in efforts to sew dresses for little girls in Africa, bible studies, church suppers, Food Pantry, and Cochair for The Samaritan Inn dinners. She along with daughter Amanda organized a team here to sew needed items for The Bethlehem House in

Easthampton. With her strong faith, she is like a mother hen, always spreading her wings.... continuing on in caregiving for Barb and Jim Jameson, her Dad in his passing, and help for our senior community. Serving as President of the Friends for the Huntington Library, she supports in their fundraising efforts. Helping out the CHA during Maple Fest, she always has a smile and her signature, “how ya doin’?”

Sharing their family goals with Karen Savoy recently, she spoke of their plans to create a gardening heirloom business. Continuing on in the footsteps of her grandmother, “Gather ‘n’ Grow Homestead” will certainly give an opportunity to families to learn not only more of what the earth has to offer, but also enjoy the beautiful area in which they live. The CHA wishes them the best in their future.

Chester Theatre returns to stage in Pittsfield

CHESTER — Chester Theatre Company is proud to present Massachusetts native Will Eno’s “Title and Deed” at Hancock Shaker Village, 1843 W. Housatonic St., Pittsfield, MA, from June Wednesday, 16 through Sunday, June 27.

A man has traveled to where the community lives, from somewhere undisclosed, but for business or pleasure? Neither. Eno’s script is bursting with moments that are simultaneously intriguing, amusing, and enigmatic.

“Title and Deed” stars James Barry, known to CTC audiences for his work in The Aliens, The Night Alive, and others. Keira Naughton, who was nominated for a Berkshire Theatre Critics’ Award for her work on 2019’s Curve of Departure, returns to direct.

Eno has written some new lines for this particular production that give a nod to the play being staged outside in a tent on the grounds of the historic Shaker village in the Berkshires.

“After all this time apart, I’m excit-

ed to join with audiences under our beautiful tent at Hancock Shaker Village,” said Producing Artistic Director Daniel Elihu Kramer. “And who better than James Barry to welcome us all back together?”

Some performances are already sold out and audiences are advised to reserve early. Individual ticket prices are \$47.50 and are available at the door or by calling the box office. Chester and Middlefield residents and those holding EBT cards may purchase \$10 tickets, and members of the military and their families may purchase \$15 tickets. Student Rush \$10 tickets are available day of show. Tickets may be purchased online at chestertheatre.org, or by calling 413.354.7771. Special rates for groups of 10 or more are available.

CTC normally produces its thought-provoking works in the intimate setting of the Town Hall Theatre in Chester, MA. Operations have shifted to Hancock Shaker Village for the 2021 season.

Transfer Station closed for Juneteenth, permits renew July 1

CHESTER — Per the Board of Health, the Transfer Station will be closed on Saturday, June 19, in observance of the Juneteenth Holiday.

Permits renew July 1 at the Chester Transfer Station. The Transfer Station is open Wednesdays from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for Chester residents. A yearly permit is required to use the transfer station, they can be purchased at the attendant’s shed during operating hours for \$65, cash or check. Additional stickers for households are \$5 each.

The permit gives Chester resi-

dents access to free cardboard, paper, plastic, and glass recycling. Rubbish requires a bag sticker — \$3 each — for someone to use their own trash bag up to a 33-gallon size. The Transfer Station also accepts demo or bulky items, metal, electronics, weed whackers, appliances and more.

Please see the attendants or the website for the fee schedule. Visit townofchester.net/transfer-station/ for tips on recycling and more. Please contact the Board of Health at 413-354-7781, text 413-519-3396, or email boardofhealth@townofchester.net for any questions.

Parents & Coaches
SEND US YOUR NEWS & PHOTOS
email us at: countryjournal@turley.com

BUDGET

from page 1

that don’t come from taxes, such as cherry sheets, and the town funding projects from free cash and the stabilization fund, which were all approved on the same ATM warrant with the budget Tingley was questioning.

“Taxes are not all the funds that come into this town,” said Baldasaro. “The \$3.1 million is what’s raised through [taxes].”

“Every dollar that we spend needs to be approved by the voters,” Myers added.

Myers calmly explained the process through which the approximately \$600,000 discrepancy Tingley focused on had been approved across multiple meetings. At the 2020 ATM, eight articles approved Free Cash expenditures totaling about \$307,000. An additional \$170,853 was sent to the Stabilization Fund from Free cash. Later that year, the town held two special town meetings to approve Stabilization expenditures of approximately \$155,000 and \$55,000. All the items combined to make up the budget discrepancy Tingley was questioning.

“Did voters approve all the spending that year? Absolutely they did,” Myers said.

Tingley also questioned how the town is funding the transfer station. She feels since the Transfer Station is in the operating budget and collects money from the permits needed to use it, the town is double-charging residents.

“As it stands now, the town is appropriating money to run all the operations of the Transfer Station,” she said. “Then we

have to pay a fee to use it...we’re being charged twice.”

Myers explained the money from the permits does not go into Free Cash, but local receipts. He noted if the money did go into Free Cash, the town tax rate would have an additional \$50,000 added to it.

Baldasaro pointed out the town has been working on the budget for the past six months and anyone and everyone is welcome to attend Selectboard and Finance Committee meetings and ask questions.

“We should not be delaying this meeting,” added Myers.

Tingley’s attempt to table the entire warrant was voted down. She initially approached Hook before the meeting started to discuss making her motion when the meeting opened. However, Hook recognized Baldasaro’s motion of Article 1 before recognizing Tingley to speak, leading the two to verbally spar before Hook recessed the meeting before discussion had begun on the first article. At one point, he threatened to have the Chester Police Department officers in attendance remove Tingley from the meeting.

The meeting resumed a few minutes later and Tingley made her motion to table after the first article was passed, which is annual article authorizing the Selectboard to appoint non-elected town positions.

Article 2 fixed the annual salaries

of all elected officials. Michele Kenney questioned why the Assessor’s compensation was cut from \$3,000 to \$1,000. Myers said the town has an outside firm handling Assessor’s work and a clerk position, which is currently open and needs to be filled, which handles the work as well. Tingley claimed the outside firm used to supply a clerk and is no longer providing that service anymore, which is why there’s a clerk vacancy. Myers disagreed.

“Chester had its own clerk. We’re working together,” he stated.

Article 3 was the fiscal 2022 budget. Myers told about 60 assembled voters at Town Hall the Finance Committee approached this year with the goal of keeping the town budget increase under 2% and they succeeded — the total increase was 1.8%.

“All in all, we think this is a very sound budget and we recommend you approve it,” Myers said.

The budget passed no questions asked.

Article 4 approved the spending limits for the Board of Health, Plumbing Inspector, Wiring Inspector, Tax Collector, Deputy Collector, and Police revolving accounts.

The Gateway Regional School assessment had both the alternative assessment and statutory approved. The alternate assessment was level funded from last year. If it fails to pass all six towns, the town will face a \$106,109

increase under statutory. Article 7 approved \$23,325 to be committed from the Education Stabilization Fund to reduce the increase.

“That basically would level fund us to what we paid last year and reduce the tax rate by about \$0.17,” said Myers.

When it came time to approve the annual article which allows the town to accept Chapter 90 funds for the maintenance, repair and construction of town roads and bridges, Tingley questioned how the town last year a \$98,000 deficit between the Chapter 90 funds had received and funds expended. It was explained to her that the town spends the money then files with the state for reimbursement. Only reimbursements already received appear on the books.

Tingley also asked why the town spent \$45,000 on the River Road project instead of Chapter 90 funds. Baldasaro clarified the project was not a Chapter 90 project.

“That project was a Mass Works Grant. Chapter 90 was not used to fund that project,” he said.

Article 9 passed following the brief discussion. Article 10 approved Chester Municipal Electric Light Department to expend its income from the sale of electricity under the control of the Electric Light Commissioners and Manager.

Voters then transitioned into the second half the warrant, focusing on setting previously approved rates, fees, and town bylaw amendments.

GOSHEN

HONORED

from page 1

The Annual Town Report mentions those who were congratulated and given citations for their numerous years of helping the town. Though they weren’t in attendance, Blais first honored Officer Donna Hewes and Chief Jeffery Hewes. Both are retiring this month after 25 years of service to the town. Jeff Hewes has served as Police Chief for the past 21 years, making him the longest serving Chief. Donna has served as an officer and the Police Department Administrator; both were congratulated and will be given a citation from Blais.

Blais also recognized the Fire Department, welcoming Robert Labrie to the ATM podium as he will be retiring this month as well after 32 years of service. He served as captain for the last 15 years and the department’s Chief of Technology Officer; he was thanked and hugged by Blais personally at the meeting. She also thanked and honored Fire Chief Sue Labrie, who is retiring this month after 32 years of service. She has served as the Chief for the last 15 years and in 2006 she because the State’s first female Fire Chief.

Blais mentioned that she first met Chief Labrie when she was running for office; her predecessor Steve Kulik introduced them on the steps of Worthington’s Town Office during a parade.

“I just remember Steve introducing you with such pride and love and deep respect because Chief Labrie has served on the volunteer Fire Department for 32 years and has served as Chief since 2006, she is only the third Chief in the nearly 70-year department history,” Blais said. “The thing that really makes her stand out in this commonwealth is that she’s the very first woman in the commonwealth to serve in a role of Fire

Chief and remains one of the few female chiefs. To say that she’s broken-down barriers is an understatement, and she’s paved the way for women like me.”

Blais gave Labrie a long hug after awarding her the citation for her dedication and the residents in attendance gave Chief Labrie a standing ovation for her work in the town.

Residents moved quickly thru the 25-article warrant, as Moderator Keith Wright announced there’d be a wedding under the tent behind the Town Offices in 45 minutes. The town laughed and kicked the meeting into gear, unanimously passing 20 articles and passing the other five by majority. Most of the articles were boiler plate articles that have to be passed annually. These articles included allowing the towns elected officials to apply for state Small Cities Programs along with other State and Federal money, which was approved by majority; and authorizing payments of town items like the 2019 Ford Super Duty pickup truck, 2019 Mack single axel primary plow and dump truck and others.

The 2019 Ford Super Duty truck has its second of five payments costing \$6,931.91 this year; the plow and dump truck has its second of 10 payments costing \$23,899.78 this year. A 2019 Police Ford utility AWD has its second of five payments consisting of \$11,802.97 this year. Two other vehicles had their fifth and final payment voted on at the ATM and will not show up on next year’s warrant including the 2017 Police Ford Interceptor which costs \$9,238.50 this year and the 2008 International Plow and Dump Truck for \$8,448.09 this year.

One article that garnered discussion was Article 6, which asked the town to

authorize the treasurer to borrow a sum of \$50,000 for a period of up to five years or less to purchase a Kubota 3560 HSCT four-wheel drive tractor with a heated cab, six-foot snow blower, seven-foot roadside mower, and a bucket loader for the Highway Department. Residents wondered why the truck was needed and wondered if it’d be big enough for the town to use properly. This truck will replace both the existing and failing 1973 and 1976 tractors. Additionally, Highway Superintendent Todd Dewkett explained the new tractor is compact comparatively, but is big enough to make the truck available in both Summer and Winter when it’s needed. Dewkett said the compact size was needed for it to fit the Highway Garage space, and in his opinion this truck will work for the town.

Article 11 asked the town to vote on transferring \$5,000 from Free Cash as a one-time expense to restructure the town’s chart of accounts; residents wondered why the accounts need to be restructured. Selectboard Chair Angela Otis explained that the town accounts are managed by software through a different party and the towns current accounts and system is ancient and, because the town outsources for the accounts, this upgrade in systems is required by the company they outsource from. The article was ultimately approved unanimously as the restructure was necessary for the town.

The last article discussed in detail was Article 22 which asked the town to authorize elected board such as the Selectboard, Board of Health, Board of Assessors, Planning Board, Tilton Town Supervisors, and Finance Committee to appoint their own members to positions under their respective jurisdictions and

supervisions. Residents questioned why this is needed and if they can actually approve this.

Town counsel Jeff Blake from KP Law explained while this doesn’t make it easier to fill a position, it makes it easier to find agents like within the Board of Health. This will allow boards to do what they’re already doing, in a more safe and lawful way as board. For example, the Board of Health typically chooses a board member to serve as Health Agent, a position the BOH is already in charge of.

Blake said when a board needs to fill a position the elected board is already in charge of, then they’ll be able to take action by naming a member to the position needed. Blake recommended the town do this, and if residents don’t like how it’s done this year, they can always down vote it next year as the article will require annual approval. This article was approved unanimously.

The fiscal 2022 budget of 3,303,106.14 was unanimously approved with little discussion on line items, which consisted of residents asking for clarification.

The last article accepted was article 25 that asked the town to authorize the Board of Selectmen’s petition to be renamed the Selectboard, having the selectmen be renamed to Selectboard members. The General Court will make clerical or editorial changes to any and all items mentioning the Board of Selectmen.

This article was passed with one abstention, and with another standing ovation to Fire Chief Sue Labrie the Annual Town Meeting was adjourned. For more information on the ATM Warrant and the results of the meeting, visit www.goshen-ma.us/home.

RUSSELL

ATM

from page 1

As the last article is asking for further town comment, the warrant articles to vote on ended at 15.

There was another typographical error in the budget; Selectboard Chair Keith Cortis mentioned the salary for the Selectboard Chair would be changed from \$4,458 to \$4,734, changing the total of the Selectboard budget, and the sub-total of the budget. The Selectboard total was changed from \$67,687 to \$67,963, and the subtotal was changed from \$1,785,706 to \$1,785,982.

There were no other errors, but there was much more discussion on the budget, including one resident asking about the pay raise versus hours for the Town Clerk, to which Finance Committee member Derrick Mason addressed the concerns with several points.

Town Clerk Jodie Paradis is the newest town clerk and works 10 hours a week on average with four hours in office per week, even during the quarantine Paradis held office hours. Mason said Paradis is a hard-working staff member and does a lot of work both in person and online, and hasn’t stopped doing that work at all and, in his opinion, Paradis has done a great service to the job. Additionally, she currently only makes \$4-\$5 an hour and Mason believes she should be making \$15-\$16 dollars an hour for all the hard work she does.

Relating to that point Mason mentioned that when looking across the Commonwealth, Paradis is currently underpaid by quite a lot, that includes the towns neighboring Russell. The Finance Committee recommends that this pay rise stay to equate the work being done.

Other residents in attendance chimed in to add that the current amount is below a living wage and the town

should be paying the employees at least a living wage. Another resident said that Paradis does a lot of background and behind the scenes work to keep town events running smoothly, like the town elections. Paradis does a lot of work in advance to prepare for the elections and she does a lot to keep the elections organized and running smoothly, this resident said she believes Paradis deserves a pay raise and is glad to see it. After discussion on the reason why the clerk’s salary was raised, the subtotal of the budget was passed unanimously as were the water, cable and T.V., MLP, and sewer budget income statements.

The warrant listed 15 articles with the first article listing positions up for vote by ballot, which was decided at the Town Election with results on the Town Hall front doors. So, the ATM started with the second article, unanimously passing it and the budget before grouping together Articles 4 to 7 and passing those as well. These articles were grouped together because Moderator Iltyd Fernandez-Sierra said the articles had to be accepted no matter what, they included fixing the salaries and compensation for elected officers of the town, authorizing any town board to appoint any member to another town office or position if need and to adjust salaries and wages of those officials, to authorize the Town Treasurer to borrow money for the budget beginning July 1 this year, and lastly to authorize the Selectboard to enter contracts with the state Highway Department and Federal Government for the construction and maintenance of public highways for fiscal 2022 and accept an money from both groups.

Another set of articles that prompted discussion was those of the Gateway School Budget in Articles 8 and 9, one consists of the statutory assessment amount and the other has the alternate

assessment amount, which will only pass if all six towns vote on it. For these articles, Fernandez-Sierra said the town wants to vote the alternative assessment, but because it might not pass they’d like to still raise the extra money of \$41,000 that would equal the statutory assessment.

At first, he said they’d like to amend article 9 to include \$41,000 as apart of the articles total but Town Accountant Nancy Boersig spoke against that idea. Boersig asked that the language be changed so the 41,000 would be raised separately because if it’s raised with the article amount then it wouldn’t match the school’s numbers and that would go back on the school and create problems on their end. Gateway Superintendent Dr. David Hopson joined the meeting and was called on to speak on the school budget.

“I think Nancy and I agree, what you need to do is change this amendment to say in lieu of the alternative method passing the amount that will be raised an appropriated will be 2,141,379 dollars. So, you’ve got the amount for the alternative, but if the alternative fails you’ve got the full amount for the statutory,” Hopson said. “I do agree with the finance committee putting that extra money in, I can tell you right now that Middlefield has already said they will not be voting the alternative assessment. So, you will have that motion come back here for the statutory amount.”

Hopson and the Finance Committee agreed that the town should down vote Article 8 which is the statutory assessment, and pass Article 9 with the amendment of in lieu of the alternate assessment not passing the amount raised will be \$2,141,379 and this amendment was passed unanimously, as was the article.

The other articles passed with little to no discussion, until Article 14

came up and asked to transfer \$9,500 from Free Cash to pay for fence repairs. Resident Bill Harvey brought up that if the town is paying to fix a vandalized fence, then they should put up precautions for if it’s vandalized again. Fernandez-Sierra steered the conversation to the fact that this article is just for a dollar amount to fix the fence and encouraged people to bring up similar concerns at Article 16, which is open for items needing to be discussed at town meeting.

Harvey continued after articles 14 and 15 were passed and asked that the town look into putting up signage that fines people \$1,000 for vandalism at Russell Pond as a similar occurrence of vandalism has happened once before already. Harvey feels if the town is paying to keep repairing, they should have a deterrent at the Russell Pond. In addition to the signage, he asked for two cameras to monitor the area that receives vandalism often. Other residents agreed with him, and Police Chief Kevin Hennessey joined the conversation to assure the residents he has already looked into a grant having to do with getting the town cameras and, while his proposal was denied last year, he plans on writing another application this year.

Hennessey mentioned the vandalism along with other examples maybe able to get the town cameras, so he’ll be looking into that grant funding. Another resident asked Chief Hennessey if he’d look into funding to get more solar powered speed limit signs, hopefully to get two more electric signs for Main Street in town, describing it as a terror. Hennessey agreed that Main Street is a problem area and he’d look into funding for signs while looking into funding for the cameras. After a handful of thanks from the residents, Selectboard, and Finance Committee the meeting was adjourned.



Al's Tire & Auto Repair

When it comes to tires we do it all,
from wheelbarrows to big rigs.

MOST MAJOR TIRE BRANDS AVAILABLE
Brakes, Shocks, Struts, Front End Repairs & Alignments
Air Conditioning Service, Check Engine Lights

918 Southampton Road, Westfield, MA 01085
Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Mike Morin **562-3391 ~ 562-1704** David Fasser



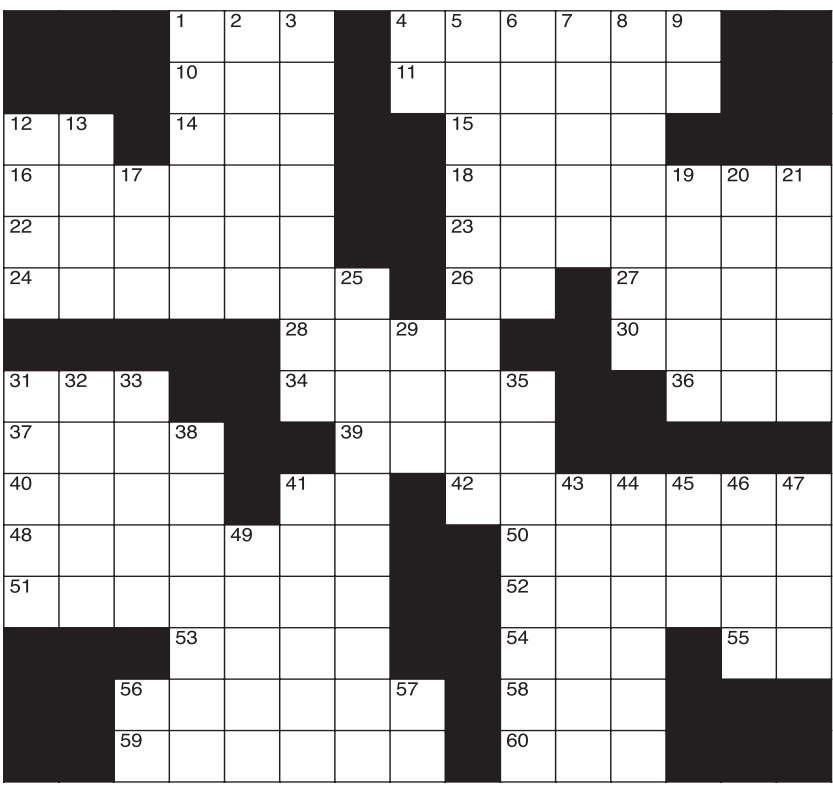
Richard's

FUEL & HEATING INC.

Fueling Generations Since 1966

- Locally Owned & Operated for 50 Years
- Oil Customers - 24 Hour Emergency Service & Automatic Delivery Available
- New System Installations - Mitsubishi Electric Diamond Dealer
- Heating Oil Plus - Maximize Energy Dollars: Keep system running Clean

79 Union St., Rear 2, Easthampton, MA 01027
413-527-0194
Open Mon.-Fri. 7:30 am - 4:00 pm



CLUES ACROSS

1. "Sleepless In Seatle" actress Ryan
4. One of Santa's reindeer
10. Before the present
11. Type of butter
12. Location of White House
14. Motion
15. Tree part
16. Regions around the North Pole
18. Fits on a boat's gunwale
22. Discuss after it's happened
23. Milk substitute for coffee
24. Describes one who believes in supreme being
26. Equally
27. Famed director Forman

28. Popular apartment style
30. British School
31. Advanced degree
34. Order of architecture
36. Investment account (abbr.)
37. Snake-like fishes
39. Children's tale bear
40. Norse personification of old age
41. Atomic #58
42. Moving your head
48. 1878 Kentucky Derby winner
50. Frankfurter
51. Small, seedless raisin
52. Device in paper-making machine
53. Go
54. Open payment initiative (abbr.)
55. "Westworld" actor

CLUES DOWN

1. Rays
2. Self-centered person
3. One you look after
4. Prosecutor
5. Portion
6. Speaks ill of
7. Formal system for computer programs
8. To make angry
9. Rural delivery
12. Group of languages
13. Large First Nations group
17. Circulating life force in Chinese philosophy
19. Excludes

Harris
56. Saturated with salt
58. Marry
59. Report on
60. Midway between north and northeast

20. Body cavity of a metazoan
21. Swedish monetary unit
25. Works with
29. Partner to "to"
31. Rewards (archaic)
32. One of Caroline Islands
33. Type of alcohol
35. Eat a lot
38. Nuns
41. Dog
43. Become more serious
44. Choose
45. Newspapers use it
46. World's longest river
47. Commanded to go faster
49. Cabs
56. Mr. T's "A-Team" character
57. Document signed (abbr.)

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

You may be confused about a love interest's seeming lack of communication this week, Aries. What may seem like silence to you could be patience to him or her.

CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, the praise you deserve finally arrives. After all of this waiting, the recognition can be a bit overwhelming. However, do your best to accept it with grace.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, you may start to feel at ease in situations that may have put you on edge in the past. This may mean that you're learning the ropes or that you've gotten experience.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, you have all the support in the world but you may not be ready to embrace it. Accepting help is not a sign of weakness. Rather, it shows you are self-confident.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

It may be challenging to see the progress you are making when it comes in small quantities, Taurus. Rest assured you are getting things done and moving along.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, someone you haven't seen in a while reaches out to reconnect. It may come as a surprise to hear from this person, but welcome him or her with open arms.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, with so much high energy, you can accomplish anything that you set your mind to this week. You might even polish off your entire to-do list.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

Positive new influences may come in your life through a new relationship or a career change, Sagittarius. Embrace the changes and enjoy the results.

AQUARIUS

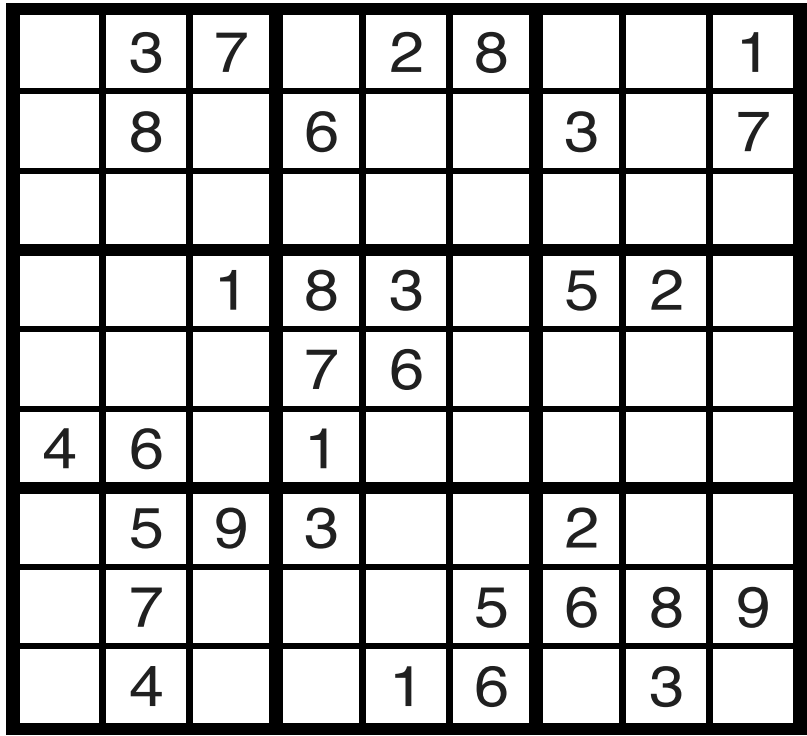
Jan 21/Feb 18

You can fix problems for others or yourself with ease. In fact, others may start coming to you for help more often. It can be emotionally fulfilling to help others.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, with a steadier financial situation and improved self-esteem, you have less to worry about what the future will bring you.



SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

WESTFIELD AUTO PARTS INC



AUTO PARTS & SUPPLIES

NATIONALLY ADVERTISED MERCHANDISE FOR ALL MAKES & MODELS

WHOLESALE RETAIL

★ Complete Auto Machine Shop Service ★ Engine Rebuilding Of All Kinds
★ Authorized Caterpillar Hydraulic Hose Dealer ★ Hydraulic Hoses

Call "DALE" 8-12 BIRGE AVE., WESTFIELD

Dial 568-8944 or 568-1611 FAX # 568-1554

Now stocking Car Quest Filters made by WIX, Amalie Oil, Bailing Twine & Tractor Parts

OBITUARIES

Tim Fuller

On Wednesday, early in the morning, Tim Fuller started his next chapter of his life, the eternal life. Tim, even in his last 24 hours, was still so full of hope and plans, always with the perspective of, “I will beat the odds.” In fact, he was so used to beating the odds, that he was to start a new job the prior day; his entire family just marveled at his perseverance.

Tim did not believe in regrets, but he believed in lessons learned and self-assessment. He was charming and personable, and to those he called friend, he was deliberately loyal. To those he called family, he was passionately loyal and to his two kids, they deserved everything he could provide; his kids were in every conversation.

Tim arrived at self-actualization in his final months and shared all of the cathartic moments throughout his

life. His mostly accurate recollections revolved around his years at Gateway Regional, his years at Emory, his two marriages, and his career as a financial auditor with some of the largest auditing companies in the United States. Tim loved all sports, was sometimes fanatical about his teams and certain players. When he faced tough odds, he would say, “I can do this just like I dropped 40 one night” (a reference to a Gators game where he sank 40 points).

Finally, Tim would mention so many names of those who impacted his life and because of Tim’s nature, I am sure you know who you are. Jesus, find a nice room for Tim.

A memorial service for Tim will be held on Saturday, June 19, at the First United Methodist Church, 16 Court Street, Westfield, MA 01085.

Rodney G. “Rod” Savery

Rodney G. “Rod” Savery of Middlefield, MA passed away at his home on the morning of June 6, 2021, surrounded by his devoted children. He joins his beloved wife, Angela, who passed away in Sept. 2020.



Rod was born on May 22, 1937 to John and Ethel Savery of Middlefield. He graduated from Westfield Trade School where he studied mechanics. After graduation he worked on the Railroad in Middlefield before he was drafted into the Army. He was stationed in Maryland where he was an Army mechanic. Upon returning home from the Army, he worked briefly at the Bancroft Paper Mill before going to work for his brother Gaynel Nickerson’s trucking company in Lee, MA. Rod went on to operate a lime spreading business, Savery Brother’s Trucking, with his brother Don as well as plowing snow for the state for over 35 years. He mowed roadsides in the summer for many years in Becket and Otis, was the gravedigger in Middlefield for over 30 years and somehow found time to operate Blush Hollow Farm Sugar House where he and Angie made maple syrup to sell and enjoy with their family.

He married the love of his life, Angela June Horalek, on September 6, 1958. Together they created a beautiful life where they raised their five children in a happy and loving home. Rod always put family first and never missed a chance to say “I love you” or give a much needed hug or word of encouragement. He delighted in the many different personalities of all of his children, their partners, and his grandchildren, and appreciated each for their individual qualities. Nothing made him happier than having a house full of family. His love and wisdom will be greatly missed by all.

Rod was a master at everything he tackled. He was either in his garage fabricating something functional,

rebuilding one of his many tractors or fine tuning the old Mac truck he painstakingly built. In his basement carpentry shop he could be found rebuilding old sleds, making new furniture or creating any project his mind could conjure up. He was always improving on everything around him and enjoyed the act of creating something with his own hands. He could also be found working in one of his vegetable gardens where he raised enough to share with all of his children and, of course, there was always lawn to be mowed - daily - to keep his yard looking impeccable.

Rod was a quiet man of great integrity and a fighter until the very end. He was cared for during his last years by his sons John and Skip and daughter Terri. A heartfelt thank you to the staff and nurses of Hospice of Western & Central Massachusetts (Pittsfield Branch Office) who helped to care for him during his last weeks.

Rod is survived by his children Skip, John, and Doug Savery, all of Middlefield, and Terri Mayer and son-in-law Andy Mayer of Pittsfield, MA; his grandchildren Jill Strong (Chris), Madison Mayer, and Carson Savery; and one sister, Jane Pulver. He was predeceased by his wife, Angela Savery; son, Thomas Savery; granddaughter, Emily Savery; brothers, Don and Leonard Savery and Neil and Gaynel Nickerson, and sister Gladys Gage.

There will be no calling hours or funeral service. A celebration of life for both Rodney and Angela will be held at a later date at the family’s convenience. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hospice of Western & Central Massachusetts (Pittsfield Branch Office) in care of Dery Funeral Home, 54 Bradford Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

DEATH NOTICES

FULLER, TIM

Died June 9, 2021
Memorial Service Saturday, June 19
First United Methodist Church, Westfield

SAVERY, RODNEY G. “ROD”

Died June 6, 2021
Celebration of Life to be held at later date

Country Journal
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Tell Us What
You Think



Share your thoughts and suggestions with our staff and your fellow readers.
Participate in our opinion pages, or contact us anytime with your feedback!

Country Journal
Your Community Newspaper



www.countryjournal.turley.com
countryjournal@turley.com • 413.283.8393

PUBLIC NOTICES
ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon,
Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

EARLY
DEADLINES

In observance of the 4th of July,
PUBLIC NOTICES
EARLY AD DEADLINE
Place your public notice
no later than NOON
Friday, July 2
– Thank you!

PUBLIC NOTICES

Chester
Conservation Commission
Legal Notice
Public Hearing

The Chester Conservation Commission will be holding a public hearing on **Monday, June 28, 2021 at 5:30 PM** at the Chester Town Hall, 15 Middlefield Rd Chester MA to review a Notice of Intent (NOI) submitted by SALVINI Associates, LLC. on behalf of Jacob S. Leis (property owner) for septic system replacement project at 116 Route 20, Chester MA 01011.

This hearing is in accordance of M.G.L.131 S40 of the Mass Wetland Protection Act.
06/17/2021

Town of Worthington
Conservation Commission
Notice of Public Hearing

The Town of Worthington Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing **Thursday, June 24, 2021 at 7:00 PM** to consider amending the **Notice of Intent** for the following project: replacement of the Starkweather Hill Road Culvert. The link to the meeting can be found on the Worthington website's Community Calendar – on the date of the hearing.
06/17/2021

This paper publishes birth, engagement, wedding and significant anniversary announcements free of charge.
Simply log on to our web site, choose the paper you want the announcement to appear in, then use our SUBMISSION link to email your information.



www.newspapers.turley.com

MONTGOMERY

Fire truck, town budget among 26 articles passed

By Eileen Kennedy

MONTGOMERY — Eighty-one voters attended Annual Town Meeting Monday, taking care of a range of town business in about 75 minutes.

Voters approved the town budget of \$255,603.78, which covers most departments except for the Highway Department, which was also approved for \$253,030. Road Superintendent Curtis Bush Jr. put forth an amendment that would have increased the budget by \$44,307. 57, which is the money for roads and bridges he has not spent this year, but Selectboard Chairman Michael Morrissey said that wouldn't be possible. Morrissey said any unspent money from this year must first be certified by the state as free cash, or leftover money for the town to use.

As part of the roads discussion, the topic of Avery Road came up. Selectmen are working toward making a public way. Morrissey said 40 years ago voters had approved it becoming a public way, but the town clerk at the time never made sure the paperwork got to the state. It remains a private way, and the only money the town can spend on it is for snow plowing, he said.

Now it means talking to all abutters of the road to sign an agreement to make it public, he said, but not everyone is in agreement.

Among other large items, voters approved an alternate assessment for the Gateway Regional School District for the coming school year for \$985,695, and in the event the other towns in the district do not vote for that assessment, it also passed a statutory assessment of \$1.09 million. Four out of six of the school region's towns must approve



Montgomery voters read the Annual Town Meeting warrant and town report before the meeting Monday night.

Photos by Eileen Kennedy

the alternate assessment for it to be the amount used, Morrissey said. The alternate assessment proposed for the coming year is the same as this year's assessment, according to Gateway Assistant Superintendent Stephanie Fisk.

Voters also approved spending \$380,000 for a new fire truck, which would replace the Fire Department's 1990 Engine 4, which has an open cab. The article stipulated that \$110,000 would come from free cash and \$270,000 would be borrowed.

When asked if it would be used or new, Fire Chief Christian Galipeau said it would be new, "you get a better bang for the buck." He said when buying used trucks there are often repair issues that make used trucks more expensive.

An article requesting \$140,000 be taken from the stabilization account to fix the roofs of the Town Hall and Fire

Station was approved. Morrissey said the town will try to patch the roofs and keep trying to find affordable quotes for the roof replacements. COVID-19 shortages have driven the cost of construction materials up, and he said the town is hoping those costs come down by the fall.

Voters approved \$12,000 to run two bulky waste days and hazardous waste services next year, and recycling services will end on June 30. Previously, recycling has cost the town about \$45,000 a year. The Recycling Committee members said they have done a great deal of research and have developed seven options they can share with residents. The Recycling Committee would have to hold a public hearing, and then when residents have decided which option most people want, the selectmen could be petitioned to hold a Special Town



Moderator Steven Pierce gets the Montgomery Annual Town Meeting underway Monday, June 14.

Meeting on the subject. A great deal of community education about the various options is necessary first, they said.

Morrissey said town regulations that go into effect on July 1 state that trash haulers must offer recycling services without raising rates specifically for recycling. However, some residents reported that when calling the companies, they were quoted recycling services rates that would be added to their trash pickup rates.

Voters also approved \$6,000 for a new town website, \$20,317.79 for ambulance services, \$41,100 for town buildings and property, which includes maintenance and part-time custodian hours, \$79,502 for employee benefits including health and dental insurance, unemployment insurance, Medicare and Workers' Compensation Insurance.

Book and plant sale returns next Saturday

MONTGOMERY — The Grace Hall Memorial Library's Annual Book and Plant sale has been moved to Saturday, June 19, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Little Red School House on

Pitcher Street. Proceeds from this sale will help fund Library events this summer. It's a great time to pick up some summer beach reads.



Send Us Your Photos!

countryjournal@turley.com

3 WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE

1

Use our website to securely subscribe online at COUNTRYJOURNAL.TURLEY.COM

2

CALL US

1-413-283-8393

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER!

Yes!

I want to subscribe to the Country Journal!

Enclosed is my payment for:

☐ \$311 year in state

☐ \$361 year out of state

☐ \$462 year in state

☐ \$562 year out of state

☐ CHECK ENCLOSED

☐ CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD

3

Please complete the form below, and mail it in a secure envelope to:

Country Journal
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069

☐ New

☐ Renewal

☐ Gift

A GIFT CARD WILL BE SENT TO ANNOUNCE YOUR GIFT!

Name _____

Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Credit Card #: _____

Exp. Date: _____ CW2 code: _____

Signature: _____

☐ GIFT TO:

Name _____

Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

CJ21TMC